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LD061426 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Tanker Attack—An Iranian gunboat fired rockets at the U.S.-owned tanker *Grand Wisdom* in the southern Gulf early 6 November, AFP reported. The agency cited shipping sources as saying a fire aboard the Panamanian-flagged tanker was quickly extinguished and that there were no casualties reported. Tehran radio cited REUTER on the attack, saying unidentified "speedboats" were involved.

Air Raids—Iraqi jets raided a "large maritime target" near the Iranian coast, Voice of the Masses radio announced 5 November. Iraqi planes also launched a "successful" raid on targets in the Ahvaz oil field the same day, according to a communique broadcast by the radio.

For its part, Tehran radio announced that Iranian air defense units downed an Iraqi jet over Saudi territorial waters late 5 November. An Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA denied the report. In addition, Iranian coastal artillery fire inflicted "heavy" losses on Iraq's Al-Bakr oil platform the same day, a communique carried by IRNA reported.

In another development, IRNA announced that 12 Iraqi helicopters were "heavily damaged" when IRGC forces shelled an Iraqi base in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province 4 November. An Iraqi military spokesman, however, dismissed the claims as "ridiculous" in a statement to INA.

Diplomacy—Speaking after a political council meeting, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said Iran has "no hopes" of solving the issue of the war through the UN Security Council, Tehran television reported.

Iran-Bahrain Contacts—Tehran radio noted that the Iranian charge d'affaires in Bahrain met with the amir of Bahrain 3 November and discussed bilateral relations, the Gulf situation, the Iran-Iraq war, and UN Resolution 598. The radio added that the envoy expressed Iran's readiness to cooperate with other countries to preserve security and stability in the region.

Arab Summit

Black September and the "International Anti-Imperialist Front" issued threats against the heads of state who will attend the Arab summit in Amman, AFP announced. In a communique delivered to AFP in Beirut, Black September accused Jordan of trying to procure an Arab consensus to "give away" the armed Palestinian revolution to the Americans and the "Zionist enemy."

Lebanon

Hostages—An "informed spiritual Islamic source" expects FRG hostage Rudolph Cordes to be freed in a deal "similar" to the one resulting in the release of Alfred Schmidt, Voice of Lebanon radio reported citing the weekly *Al-Shira'*. The source also said that other foreign hostages in Lebanon will be freed within the framework of arms deals to a "certain country in the region," the radio added.

West Beirut Explosions—The "Liberation Battalion" organization claimed responsibility for five explosions targeted against Syrian positions in West Beirut on the evening of 5 November, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The organization said the operations would continue until the Syrian forces evacuate West Beirut, the radio added.

In another development, Syrian forces arrested 120 members of pro-Iranian fundamentalist groups in northern Lebanon on the morning of 6 November and subjected them to "intensive" interrogation, Radio Free Lebanon noted.

Libya

Britain accused Libya of being the source of the weapons found aboard a freighter seized off the coast of France 30 October, London *Press Association* reported, adding that it "seemed likely" that the arms shipment was bound for the Irish Republican Army. The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, however, categorically denied any involvement in the matter, JANA announced. Efforts to link Libya with the case, the agency added, constitute yet another attempt by the United States and Britain to confirm their enmity toward Libya.

PLO-USSR

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had a brief meeting with CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev 5 November, TASS noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Klibi Arrives in Amman, Makes Statement

JN052048 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Amman this evening. He is heading the Arab League General Secretariat delegation to prepare for and participate in the extraordinary Arab summit conference that opens on Sunday.

Klibi was welcomed at Amman airport by Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister; Talal al-Hasan, the Jordanian representative to Tunis and Jordan's permanent representative to the Arab League; the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and a number of other officials.

In a statement to a PETRA correspondent, Klibi noted: I reiterate my most profound and proud feelings for His Majesty King Husayn for his continuous and unstinting efforts. He has worked to clear the Arab atmosphere in an effort to reinforce our nation's ability to confront the dangers facing it and to confirm its credibility in the international community. His Majesty King Husayn crowned these efforts with his intensive contacts and talks to guarantee the summit's convocation in the best possible atmosphere and to ensure its success.

I do not need to confirm the extraordinary importance of this summit. It is meeting at a time when dangers around us are increasing. Arab national security remains the central issue in any meeting held by the leaders of our states. Therefore, I have no doubt that the summit will express effective solidarity with Iraq on repulsing the aggression against it. The summit will also express solidarity with Kuwait on confronting Iranian acts of aggression against its territory, as well as with regard to the threats leveled against all our Arab countries in the Arab Gulf.

Klibi continued: The dangers facing our nation clearly come from several sources and sides and form a broad front of closely linked challenges. The most notable of these is the challenge of Israeli aggression against the Arab nation. This is represented by the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and parts of Lebanon. Israel's denial of the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and its determination to continue its plans for expansion and hegemony are another component of this aggression. The tragedy in Lebanon that has continued for 12 years is an additional challenge for the Arabs.

The Arab League secretary general added: In any case, every unified position reached by our states on any of these issues will undoubtedly help in facing other challenges, in promoting the Arab ability to meet them, and in increasing the possibilities for attaining a just and durable peace. The convocation of the summit is an outstanding event in the march of joint Arab action. It reconfirms our faith that our states' solidarity is certainly the last resort of the Arab community in the face of danger and that this is the only way to confront future dangers facing our security and development.

Klibi stated: I reiterate my proud feelings for His Majesty King Husayn. I also reiterate my gratitude to officials serving the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan—especially Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i—for their great efforts in preparations for the convocation of the summit. I repeat my profound appreciation to the great Jordanian people for hosting this second meeting of leaders of our states following the Amman summit held in 1980. The resolutions of that conference constituted a turning point in pan-Arab economic planning.

In concluding his statement, Klibi asked God to allow this conference, which the capital of dear Jordan will host in 3 days, to succeed for the best of our nation and future generations.

The members of the Arab League General Secretariat accompanying Klibi include Dr Muhammad al-Farra, assistant secretary general for Palestine affairs; As'ad al-As'ad, assistant secretary general for Arab affairs; Al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi, assistant to and personal representative of the secretary general; and a number of advisers and representatives at the General Secretariat.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Head PLO Delegation to Arab Summit

LD051733 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1446 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Amman, 5 Nov (KUNA)—High-ranking Palestinian sources said here today that the PLO delegation to the Arab summit will be led by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The sources told KUNA that the delegation will consist of all the members of the PLO's Executive Committee who represent the various Palestinian organizations, as well as Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, chairman of the Palestine National Council, and a number of PLO Central Council members. [passage omitted]

Fatah's 'Atallah Addresses Rally in Amman Camp

JN051315 Amman AL-QUDS in Arabic 2 Nov 87 pp 1, 16

[Excerpts] Amman (Al-Buraq)—Brother Abu al-Za'im ['Atallah 'Atallah], leader of the Corrective Movement in Fatah and the PLO, has declared that 'Arafat does not represent the Palestinian people or the Palestinian question. Whoever holds direct and suspicious contacts with Zionist enemy leaders, he stated, is only working against the wishes of the Palestinian people and against the national and pan-Arab cause of the Palestinian question.

Brother Abu al-Za'im affirmed that the Corrective Movement in the PLO is the PLO itself, the organization which our people, represented by their broad masses inside our occupied territory, in Jordan, and in the diaspora, have regained by rallying around this movement.

The brother leader praised the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied territory and pledged: We will remain loyal to the blood of our martyrs and our Jerusalem—the Jerusalem of Arabdom and Islam.

The brother leader made these statements in a historic speech delivered to the multitudes of Palestinians who had gathered at the Al-Husayn camp and Jabal al-Nuzhah in a public rally last Friday. The rally was attended by 30,000 people from various parts of Jordan, the occupied areas, and abroad.

The masses of our Palestinian people came from all areas to meet with our brother leader Abu al-Za'im. The meeting turned into a national rally, which shouted in one voice: We are the PLO. We are its new positive surge. No one else has the right to represent us after today.

The following is the text of the brother leader's speech:

[Passage omitted] Noble gathering, your Corrective Movement in the PLO is the genuine trend and leadership, the central point, and the guide. This movement has grown big, and it no longer bothers with the small things around it. With God's will and might, as well as with your determination and willpower, this movement has become the PLO we are seeking. Indeed, by the support of the masses of our people in the occupied territory, in Jordan, and elsewhere, this movement has become the PLO—the organization which our Palestinian Arab people have regained. The corrective phase is over. We are now in the phase of the legitimate leadership of the PLO. [passage omitted]

We will not surrender or bow. When we say yes to honorable peace, we are saying yes to the peace that restores our legitimate rights in an international conference attended by all the parties involved in the conflict, as well as the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, on the basis advocated by the secretary general of the United Nations. There is no shame when we extend our hand at this phase for a real and honorable peace that enables us to establish an independent state on our national soil and our confederate state with Jordan. But there is real shame when those claiming to represent the PLO deviate from the Palestinian stand and Arab and Islamic unanimity and contact Shamir directly, openly, and without reservations. This is the real shame.

We do not want to talk much about that here. Your movement is too big to stoop to such a low level. But I will not be soft on national issues. I ask: Where is the alleged patriotism? Is it in the contacts with Shamir through Biton; in the Budapest, Bucharest, and Geneva talks; or in the collaborators' contacts with the enemy in the occupied territory? I leave this question to future generations and to history.

Today, brothers, the Arab summit will be held in this good land; in Jordan, the bastion of steadfastness and loftiness; in the abode of Hashemite King Husayn ibn Talal, grandson of Husayn ibn 'Ali, the king of all Arabs.

We have chosen this day to tell our brother Arab kings and presidents that the one who comes among you in the name of Palestine no longer represents Palestine. I tell our brother kings and presidents, who will be embraced by the summit in Amman, I tell them with the courage and confidence of a faithful man: 'Arafat does not represent us. To those who want to achieve reconciliation I say that there are no personal differences between us and 'Arafat. There is only the honor and destiny of this people on which there can be no compromise under any circumstances or considerations. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Libyan Foreign Secretary Departs After Talks

LD052212 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, left Algeria this evening following a short, friendly working visit. [passage omitted]

Mr al-Talhi made a statement to APS prior to his departure, saying that his visit was related to continuing consultations and coordination between the two sisterly countries on all matters related to bilateral relations and Arab issues. [passage omitted] A working session between the two countries' delegations was chaired by Mr al-Talhi, who arrived in Algeria this afternoon, and was attended by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi. During this session, the two sides exchanged viewpoints on current political questions pertaining to the Arab Mashriq and Maghreb, as well as the situation in the Gulf region, on the eve of the emergency Arab summit.

Egypt

Mubarak To Visit USSR 'Beginning' of Next Year

NC051037 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 3 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] Cairo—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has received an invitation from his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, to visit Moscow. The invitation was conveyed by Mikhail Kapitsa, chairman of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Asia and Africa, who is visiting Cairo.

Informed sources have also said that Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, who visited Cairo last week [as published] conveyed an invitation to president Husni Mubrak from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to visit Moscow. Mubarak has accepted the invitation and will visit Moscow at the beginning of next year.

Mubarak Views Arab Summit, Gulf War, Extremism

NC051607 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Paris, 5 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak doubts the ability of the emergency Arab summit in Amman to end the Gulf war. He notes that the superpowers themselves have failed to do so.

President Mubarak believes that the task of the Amman summit should be to repair internal Arab affairs to ensure that the Arabs will be able to stand up to foreign threats. He has called for the reconsideration of the concepts of Arab solidarity and the joint Arab Defense Pact in an effort to guarantee their effectiveness. He has also issued a warning against current Arab division which will only lead to "devouring us piece by piece".

In an exclusive interview with the Paris-based *Al-Watan al-'Arabi* to be published tomorrow, Friday, President Mubarak asserted that the international conference for peace in the Middle East is the all-embracing umbrella, without which no one can negotiate or resolve the issue.

The president emphasized the need for the PLO's presence in such a conference. Contrary to Israeli claims, he stressed, the organization is not a terrorist one, and its leader Yasir 'Arafat is the best man to represent the Palestinians.

In his interview, President Mubarak refuted claims by Damascus Radio that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil had requested assistance from Egypt during his recent visit to Cairo. In this regard, the president asserted that Al-Jumayyil did not request any assistance, military or otherwise, from Egypt.

The president said that Al-Jumayyil had explained to us the ramifications of the Lebanese crisis, as well as his position in this regard. Mubarak asserted that the Lebanese crisis can only be solved by the withdrawal of all foreign troops. He hoped the Amman summit would handle the Lebanese issue from a nationalist perspective that would preserve Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity. The president appealed to everyone to take their hands off Lebanon, asserting his faith in the ability of the Lebanese people to solve their problems without intervention.

In this connection, President Al-Jumayyil said: I hope Syria will try to let Lebanon solve its problems on its own, without any intervention. The president warned against the hazards of infiltration into Lebanon, pointing out that the growing Iranian presence in the country will not only endanger Lebanon, but will also eventually endanger Syria as well.

Mubarak announced that Egypt will agree to take part in an Arab force, which will act as a disengagement force between disputing parties in Lebanon, if the Arab League approves such a solution and agrees on its composition and method of action. The president remarked that it is necessary to ask at this point whether such a force will be deployed while the Syrian and Israeli troops are still there. The president asserted that this would be "illogical".

In the interview with *Al-Watan al-'Arabi*, President Husni Mubarak announced that he might visit the United States next year. He noted that he has received an invitation from President Ronald Reagan to do so. He added: Circumstances permitting, I will make the visit because there are issues to be discussed there. President Mubarak declared in this regard that relations between Egypt and the United States are good.

Touching on the Soviet stand with regard to the Gulf war, President Mubarak said: The point that we really have to comprehend and fully understand is that the

operation in the Gulf is between the Soviets and the Americans. He pointed out that everyone, including the Soviets and Americans, will respect the Arabs when there is Arab solidarity, a coordination of stands, and an awareness of pan-Arab security.

During his interview with the *Al-W'atan al-'Arabi* magazine, President Mubarak reviewed various aspects of Egypt's internal affairs. He affirmed that economic issues top the list of priorities for national action in Egypt. These are important and vital issues which concern the Egyptian citizen, he said. He added that nothing can compensate for the lack of a dignified life.

President Mubarak mentioned his recent call for a national conference on increasing Egyptian production, stressing that the first priority should be given to boosting Egyptian exports in order to provide essential hard currency. In this connection, the president emphasized the vital role of the public sector in Egyptian society, affirming that the Egyptian public sector is not for sale. He said that he was surprised that some people have called for the public sector to be sold off, remarking that this would be a dangerous step taken at the expense of the ordinary citizen.

The president also emphasized the role of the private sector, pointing out that Egypt's need for the public sector is paralleled by the need for a national capitalism making an honest profit.

In the interview, President Mubarak affirmed that his primary duty is to ensure a dignified life for the citizen. He noted that he wants to achieve far more than has already been achieved in recent years. He pointed out that the next 5-year plan stresses further action and more production and added that efforts should focus on these two things in the coming stage.

Mubarak asserted that he is paying close attention to investment issues and giving directives for solving them. He pointed out that Egypt is in need of enormous investments.

The president remarked that Egypt is one of the least bureaucratic states in the world. He said that bureaucracy is an "international disease" and that no country in the world, even the United States, is free of it. He declared that the president of a country cannot resolve the issue of bureaucracy on his own because this is a matter involving the rationalization of laws, an awareness on the part of the people, and flexibility on the part of government organizations.

In discussing democracy in Egypt, President Mubarak expressed his satisfaction with the country's continuous democratic development, stressing that he considers the democratic experiment a basic process for the rebuilding of Egyptian society. He said: We are building democracy for the distant future and for our coming generations.

President Mubarak did not deny that there have been some transgressions in the Egyptian democratic experiment, but he said: We must bear these transgressions in order to keep the ship sailing and to build a modern Egypt. He stressed that Egypt has the means to uphold and promote its vanguard democratic experiment.

In speaking of the Egyptian opposition, President Mubarak stressed the fact that opposition lies at the core and the very fabric of the political life of Egypt, and is indivisible from it.

Responding to a question on the status of the Muslim Brotherhood members, following their entry into the People's Assembly on the opposition Labor Party ticket, President Mubarak said: We have legal opposition parties. If Muslim Brotherhood members have joined the Labor Party, then we will treat them as members of the Labor Party. Ultimately, they are citizens who are members of this party.

Regarding the demand by some people that he give up his chairmanship of the ruling National Democratic Party [NDP], President Mubarak said: What harm can result from this? He stressed that it is not his hobby to hold many posts; all he wants is to run the wheel of work in Egypt to ensure the well-being of the people. He explained that his chairmanship of the NDP is very vital and facilitates his running of the country in view of the fact that it is the largest party.

President Mubarak indicated that if he gives up the chairmanship of the NDP, scores of conflicting and rival parties will crop up, something which the current circumstances of the country cannot permit. He stressed that he will leave the chairmanship of the party once he notices that it obstructs the work and progress of the country.

With regard to the expectations by some that there was going to be a major Cabinet reshuffle at the beginning of his second term in office on 13 October, President Mubarak noted that a change is not a personal whim or a hobby, but takes place in accordance with the requirements of public interest and the welfare of the homeland. He said: The beginning of a new presidential term does not mean there should be a change of cabinet. Clearly, every official will remain in his post as long as he performs his duties successfully.

Touching upon the issue of extremism, President Mubarak stressed that extremism is a world phenomenon not confined soley to Egypt. He stated: We are fighting terrorism like any disease. He stressed that the Egyptian security authorities are in control of the situation.

Iranian Proposal To Release POW's Rejected

JN051901 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 2 Nov 87 pp 1, 23

[Text] Cairo—A very important Arab diplomatic source in Cairo has affirmed in a statement to *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* that he has confirmed information that the Iranian regime has again attempted to contact Egyptian leaders through an Arab country.

The Iranian regime said that it was ready to immediately release all Egyptian prisoners, whom Egypt tried to have released earlier through Sudan and Algeria, and to transfer them through any other state it chooses if Egypt stops its military support for Iraq and halts all arms deals with that country.

The source reported that the Egyptian political leadership had informed the third party of its rejection of this proposal. The Egyptian leadership announced that it had previously rejected any conditions dictated by the Iranian authorities in exchange for the release of the Egyptian prisoners.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm has learned from sources in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry that the condition of some of the Egyptian prisoners has gravely deteriorated after some of them decided to begin a hunger strike inside Iranian prisons. The Egyptian sources added that a large number of the Egyptian prisoners are suffering from psychological and neurological diseases and are not receiving any treatment. Those prisoners are still in prison.

A secret report on the conditions of the Egyptian prisoners has been prepared, but few Egyptian officials have discussed it.

Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi raised the issue of releasing the Egyptian prisoners during his visit to Tehran 1 and 1/2 years ago. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's mediation produced no new results. During his recent visit to Tehran, the Algerian foreign minister also raised this issue after it was discussed by the Egyptian and Algerian Governments.

PLO Delegation Arrives en Route to Amman

NC052141 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2128 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Some members of the Palestinian delegation who will participate in the Amman summit arrived in Cairo from Tunis tonight. Among them is Hani al-Hasan, PLO Central Committee member and political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat. The group, which was met at the airport by Sa'id Kamal, the PLO representative in Cairo, will leave for Amman tomorrow.

UNIDO Official Meets With Mubarak, Departs

NC051839 Cairo MENA in English 1740 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, Nov. 5 (MENA)—The director general of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNIDO, left here today after a few days' visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

In a predeparture statement the director general said that he discussed with President Mubarak issues related to investment opportunities in Egypt, pointing out that he also had talks with Minister of Industry Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab on ways of boosting cooperation between Egypt and UNIDO.

Meanwhile a seminar on investment prospects in Egypt, attended by nearly 200 Arab and foreign investors representing 28 countries, wound up here earlier in the day. The seminar was co-organized by UNIDO and the General Investment Authority.

Niger Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

NC061141 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Niger Minister Delegate for Interior Amandou Fiti Maiga and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this morning at the conclusion of a 3-day visit. During his stay in Cairo, the Niger minister held talks with Interior Minister Zaki Badr to boost bilateral cooperation in police and security fields.

Libya

Connection With Arms-Smuggling Vessel Denied

LD060736 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Nov (JANA)—Western news media have carried reports concerning the seizure of the freighter *Eksund* by French authorities. As usual, certain circles have now attempted to implicate Libya in this incident. To make certain that Libya's stand on this issue is clearly understood, the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stresses the following:

1. The Great Jamahiriyah has nothing to do with this freighter. It categorically denies everything repeatedly asserted by the Western news media on this subject. 2. It is nothing new for the United States and other states behind it to seek to involve the name of the Great Jamahiriyah in events that later prove to have nothing to do with Libya. Attempts to implicate Libya in the affair of this freighter are nothing more than a return to the same method by which the U.S. Administration and Britain confirm their common emnity against the Libyan people and their political choices.

U.S. Official 'Confirms' Summit Instigated

LD052124 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Charles Redman, spokesman for the U.S. Department of State, last night indirectly declared through VOA that the Gulf war will be at the center of the Arab summit scheduled to be held in Amman. Redman expressed the State Department's hope that this summit will yield tangible results on the Gulf war and toward the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598. His statement also stressed that the U.S. Administration not only determined when and where the Amman summit

would be held, but its agenda as well, which has reportedly been left open. The U.S. Administration included the Gulf war as a central issue on the agenda since this conflict is effectively threatening U.S. oil and financial interests in the Arab Gulf region. The statement by this U.S. official confirms the truth of the analysis that the brother leader of the revolution presented during the news conference he held in Tripoli last Monday [2 November]. This news conference concerned the nature and conditions affecting the convening of the summit. He stressed that it is being held by order of the U.S. Administration to defend U.S. interests in the Arab Gulf region instead of the United States defending them itself.

Assassination Attempt on Al-Qadhdhafi Noted

NC051445 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI 2-8 Nov 87 p 50

[Text] According to a report from the embassy of a large power, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was subjected to an assassination attempt in Banghazi on 7 August. The report states that two rockets struck the Abu Jaziyah building at 1000 that day. This building is adjacent to the Uzu Hotel, which faces a naval base. Investigations revealed that a naval unit fired the two rockets at the hotel, which contains a secret operations room usually used by Al-Qadhdhafi when he is in the area.

According to the same report, Colonel 'Abd al-Qadir ibn Yusuf al-Ghazani, commander of the naval unit that fired the rockets, and members of this crew were arrested following the incident. A military tribunal sentenced Al-Ghazani to death and each crew member to 10 years' imprisonment.

Algerian Officials Attend Revolt Commemoration

LD032336 Tripoli JANA in English 1642 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 3, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The masses of the Basic People's Congresses and pan-Arab congresses in "Wadi al-Hayat" municipality commemorated yesterday the anniversary of the "Ezzane" fight in the region of "Ghat".

This fight has embodied the spirit of struggle of the Arab people of Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria in confronting the French invaders. In this fight the Libyan Arab and Algerian blood was shed in one trench.

On this occasion which has coincided with the 33d anniversary of the outbreak of the people's revolution in Algeria, a massive rally was yesterday organized.

Present at this rally were the secretary and members of the General People's Committees, the secretary of the People's Congresses Affairs, secretary of the People's Committees' Affairs at the General People's Congress, Mr. Mohamed Djeghaba, member of the Central Committee, the Algerian minister of "moudjahidine", Mr. Youcef Yaloui, member of the Central Committee, secretary general of the Algerian National 'Jihad' Organization, a people's delegation from 'Ghat' Province in Algeria, the Algerian ambassador accredited to Great Jamahiriyah, secretary of the People's Congress, members of the People's Committee of Wadi al-Hayat municipality, the secretary of the Arab People's Congress, the ambassadors of the friendly and sisterly countries accredited to Great Jamahiriyah.

In this celebration the curtain was raised from the monument of this fight.

The masses present there have expressed their joys over the meaning of commemorating this anniversary.

Several folklore performances were conducted stressing the close cohesion among the rank and file of the Arab nation to repulse the imperialists.

In his speech, the secretary of the General People's Committee has saluted the Libyan Arab and Algerian martyrs who sacrificed their lives to expel the colonialists who wanted to occupy a part which is very dear of our Arab homeland.

He has stressed the close cohesion between the Libyan Arab and Algerian people during the French occupation.

He adds that the Libyans stood firmly against the French invaders in the fight of 'Ezzane' which was a French base in the heartland of Libya—the fortress of Sabha before the revolution.

The Libyans confronted the unjust French onslaught.

He emphasized that the Arab people in Algeria and Great Jamahiriyah has proven that the destiny of this nation is one. So is its freedom.

He points out that the joint struggle has always been part and parcel of the unity of the Arab nation from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf.

He concludes that the Great al-Fatih Revolution is a unionist revolution the objectives of which being the unity of the Arab nation and the confrontation of colonialism and Zionism in the Arab homeland.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mohamed Djeghaba, the minister of 'moudjahidine' of sisterly Algeria, has given a speech saluting the leader of the revolution and the Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid as well as the people of Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

He also lauds the supportive stand of the Libyan Arab people alongside the struggle of the Algerian people when it was suffering from the various aspects of colonialism. The Libyan Arab people, he asserts, has been so generous in this support.

He stresses that this get-together has always been one of destiny.

The Algerian people, he continues, is giving a good example in the unionist course not only to other peoples but to the generations to come. Such an act can only materialize through concentrating efforts within a clear purview, apart from knowing our capabilities and aspirations from which the credibility of our work stems.

Such a work takes a long time and is difficult. It necessities perseverance and great efforts, but the objective being sought will drive us forward.

He asserts that setting defiance to our enemies is a historic one. [sentence as received] We are aware of this enemies who make every endeavour to foil the work of our nation, not to mention our progress towards the prosperous horizons of this nation and its coming generations. Our road is great and our future is great, yet more glorious.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets PFLP-GC's Ahmad Jibril

LD051802 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1723 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Nov (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received Brother Ahmad Jibril, the secretary general of the PFLP-GC.

Receives Palestinian Leaders

LD051930 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Al-Harth [November] (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received Brothers Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the Palestine National Liberation Movement-Fatah Uprising; Khalid al-'Amlah, assistant secretary of the Fatah Movement [title as received]; and Abu 'Ali Busaysu.

Sudan

Army Unit Counterattacks 'Outlaws' Near Mayom

JN051722 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Nov (SUNA)—An Armed Forces unit wounded a large number of outlaws and killed 347 in a recent counterattack against outlaw concentrations near Mayom in the Upper Nile region. Five members of this unit were martyred and 12 others were wounded. In an effort to block the retreat of the invading outlaws, 6 members of the Anyanya II movement were martyred and 13 others were wounded.

A communique issued here today by the Armed Forces General Command said that this unit had been formed from the 6th Infantry Brigade, under the command of Brigadier General 'Umar Hasan, to completely eliminate the last of the outlaws from the Mayom region. In desperation, they have recently shelled or dispatched forces to this region. Our forces have confronted every such attack with heroic determination, repulsed them, and inflicted losses on those involved at a time when their radio claimed that the region was under their full control.

The Armed Forces communique added that the unit had carried out its duty with great efficiency and unique courage. The Anyanya II forces also contributed effectively to the effort by blocking the invading outlaws' line of retreat.

The communique reported that the Armed Forces had captured 2 82-mm mortars, 4 60/75-mm mortars, 2 RPG-9s, 6 machineguns, 2 mines, 75 Kalashnikov rifles, 475 82-mm mortar shells, 383 60/75-mm mortar shells, 20,000 rounds of ammunition, very large quantities of ammunition used in small arms, 300 iron beds, and 150 chairs which were found in the camp near Mayom.

Iranian Gunboat Attacks Panamanian Tanker

JN060824 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] According to shipping sources in the Arabian Gulf, an Iranian gunboat attacked a Panamanian-flagged oil tanker in the southern part of the Arabian Gulf early this morning. The sources added that fire broke out on the tanker but was later extinguished by the crewmen. No losses were reported. The sources noted that the 103,584-tonne tanker *Grand Wisdom* was laden with crude oil when it was subjected to Iranian aggression near the UAE port of Jabal 'Ali.

Combat Operations in Gulf War Continue

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN052108 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2057 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Statement by Iraqi military spokesman dated 5 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Air Force will continue to pursue the enemy in daytime as well as night to sever its oil supply lines. The charlatans in Iran use the revenues from this oil for aggression. At 2040 [1740 GMT] today, our aircraft dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

[Dated] 5 November 1987

Communique No 2,900

JN051729 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,900 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In defense of great Iraq and the principles of its glorious revolution, our victorious forces continued their capable activities last night and today. They inflicted the following new losses on our country's enemies:

1. The criminal Iranian regime still insists on war and uses its oil revenues to attack our country. To deal further painful blows against this regime and to prevent it from obtaining its oil revenues, our heroic Air Force launched a successful raid at 1500 [1200 GMT] today against selected targets in the Ahvaz oil field. Our aircraft pounded their targets and then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. In the I Army Corps northern sector, two enemy personnel were killed and one observation post was destroyed.

3. One soldier was killed in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

4. In the II Army Corps central sector, two infantry positions and one vehicle were destroyed and one scoundrel was killed.

5. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, four scoundrels were killed and two infantry positions were destroyed.

6. In the VII Army Corps, one shovel was destroyed, another was damaged, and three infantry positions and one observation post were destroyed.

7. The criminal enemy shelled residential areas in the city of Al-Zubayr and the Al-Zamqi complex with long-range artillery. As a result, three civilians were martyred. Nine others, including four children and four women, were wounded and a number of houses were damaged. Mercy and forgiveness to our martyrs and a swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 November 1987

Military Spokesman Denies Helicopters Damaged

JN051701 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1622 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Tehran radio claims that Iranian artillery has damaged a number of Iraqi helicopters.

In a statement to INA today, the Iraqi spokesman said that no army places its planes within artillery range of (?the enemy). The spokesman added that these ridiculous stories are simply for public consumption because there is nothing else for the media to propagate as a result of the many taboos in Iran.

Denies Plane Downed 5 Nov

JN061225 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1212 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Iraq has denied Iranian claims that an Iraqi aircraft was shot down yesterday evening. An Iraqi military spokesman told INA at noon today that all the Iraqi aircraft which dealt blows to the Iranian regime's oil supplies had returned safely to base.

The spokesman added that the claim by Tehran radio at noon today that an Iraqi aircraft was shot down is one of those ridiculous assertions to which the Iranian regime resorts every time it receives painful blows from the Iraqi Air Force.

President Receives Message From King Fahd

JN051735 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy

mosques. Tirad al-Harithi, Saudi ambassador in Baghdad, conveyed the message during a meeting today with Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister.

Ramadan Receives Bulgarian Trade Minister

JN051826 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister Khristo Khristov. Khristo Khristov conveyed greetings to President Saddam Husayn from Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov. He expressed the Bulgarian leadership's and people's pride in the existing relations with Iraq. The first deputy prime minister asked the Bulgarian minister to convey leader President Saddam Husayn's greetings to President Todor Zhivkov, as well as Iraq's desire to expand and develop cooperation with Bulgaria.

The first deputy prime minister also reviewed developments in the aggressive war launched by the Iranian regime. He affirmed the Iraqi Armed Forces' readiness to wipe out any attacks by the aggressors. At the same time, Iraq continues its efforts to achieve peace and to implement Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to the war.

Khristo Khristov praised Iraq's peaceful stands. He affirmed that Bulgaria is continuing its efforts to achieve peace.

The meeting was attended by the Bulgarian ambassador to Baghdad.

SFRY Trade Minister Arrives in Baghdad 5 Nov

JN051429 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 5, INA—Iraqi Minister of Trade, Mr Muhammad Mahdi Salih met here today with the Yugoslav Minister of Trade, Nenad Krekic. They discussed ways to increase trade cooperation between the two countries. The Yugoslav minister had arrived in Baghdad last night.

Rome Paper Interviews Iraqi Kurdish Envoy

PM051430 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 1 Nov 87 pp 25-26

[Interview with Ahmad Barmani, representative in Europe for the Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Roberto Fabiani in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Fabiani] What will you do to your three Italian hostages if the Italian Government fails to meet all or part of your demands? Will you kill them?

[Barmani] Let us not talk nonsense. Such madness does not occur to anyone. Life is sacred to the Kurds, as is hospitality. Indeed, the experts who are with us must not be called hostages. They are guests—obviously against their will—but guests nevertheless, and they are treated as such. [passage omitted]

[Fabiani] Let us start by discussing these hostages. How are they?

[Barmani] They are very well. They are at one of our bases and free to move about as they wish within a clearly defined perimeter. They live in a comfortable house heated by fireplaces. They eat the same food as the fighters supplemented by meat and fruit. They drink yoghurt.

[Fabiani] As you treat them so well and do not intend to kill them, why should the Italian Government yield to your blackmail, if you will pardon the expression?

[Barmani] We know how to make the government give in without harming our guests, and we are very, very patient. That is, we have time on our side. Obviously, they are not totally safe because if the Iraqis attack and bomb the base, something serious could happen. It has already happened to a Turkish engineer who was a guest in the very house of a resistance leader and was seriously wounded in an attack. However, we are not to blame for that.

[Fabiani] Why did you seize Italians?

[Barmani] Well, they are not the only ones. In 1986 we had 32 guests, including Soviets, Bulgarians, Turks, Filipinos, Indonesians, and Germans. This year we have 25, from nearly everywhere. There are even two Chinese.

[Fabiani] When did the practice of giving hospitality to foreigners by constraint begin?

[Barmani] In 1985—when we decided to draw governments' attention to our tragedy, to which nobody pays any heed. Believe me, this is not an action against Italy or the Italians. We want people to be aware of and talk about our situation. The Iraqis have destroyed 3,000 Kurdish villages and 612 brothers have been tortured to death in Iraqi prisons. Villages are attacked with chemical weapons and poison gas.

[Fabiani] Is that why you have asked the Italians for 2,000 gas masks?

[Barmani] The fighters need them and we want to make everyone aware of the Iraqi atrocities. We want other things too, however. The Italian Government must make a public statement condemning Iraq's use of poison gas. This should not be difficult in view of the fact that Italy has signed international conventions banning poison gas.

[Fabiani] Is that all?

[Barmani] No. We want the Italian Government to stop supplying Iraq with weapons. We have evidence that certain kinds of bombs used against us are manufactured in Italy.

[Fabiani] Is it true that you have requested the withdrawal of the Italian naval task force from the Persian Gulf?

[Barmani] It is not an iron-clad condition, unlike the others. It is merely a request. In the Gulf Italy is aiding the American conspiracy against Iran and in Iraq's favor. Even a child can see that.

[Fabiani] In the Gulf, the Italian Navy escorts Italian merchant ships from the Strait of Hormuz to Kuwait. It does nothing more than that and is hostile to no one. Everyone knows that; there is no conspiracy here.

[Barmani] Yes, but Kuwaiti waters are close to our war zone. If an Italian naval ship is hit by an Iranian missile, would the Italian Government do nothing? It would obviously align itself against Iran.

[Fabiani] The ship would only be hit by a missile if one were fired at it. In any case, the 39 casualties on board the American frigate *Stark* were caused by an Iraqi missile—by mistake, they said.

[Barmani] That is a lie. It was fired intentionally to increase the tension and to bring into the Gulf an entire fleet hostile to Iran. Do you want proof? Since the arrival of these ships, Iraq has become so confident that it has moved two divisions from the front and unleashed them against us. This is why we do not want Iraq to be reinforced either militarily or diplomatically. It must be isolated.

[Fabiani] But Iran also has been an adversary of the Kurds.

[Barmani] In earlier times. Now there is a tactical alliance; later, we shall see. This rapprochement with Iran has prompted Italy—a country where I believe great confusion reigns in its foreign policy—to commit a major error. Concerning the business of our guests, Italy caused great confusion in its embassy in Tehran, which had established good contacts. Negotiations must be conducted either with our leaders in Kurdistan—although I am not sure whether the Italians can contact them—or with me. Any other method will lead nowhere. To think that on another occasion everything was resolved quite simply. That was in 1985, when we took the Rome expert Antonio Chiaverini. We settled everything within 5 months.

[Fabiani] What did you obtain in exchange for his release?

[Barmani] Money and humanitarian aid—food and medical supplies.

[Fabiani] Have you requested humanitarian aid this time?

[Barmani] Not yet; we are preparing a list. It will be a rather long one but we need many things.

[Fabiani] Why are you requesting money?

[Barmani] Actually, they are for taxes. Companies work in our territory and earn money. If you came to work in France, would you not pay taxes to the French Government?

[Fabiani] Have you requested weapons?

[Barmani] Never. We take care of that ourselves; we know what to do.

[Fabiani] You must realize that the Italian Government could never withdraw a military task force—such as the naval squadron—under the external pressure of an ultimatum.

[Barmani] It is not an ultimatum—only a request dictated by common sense.

[Fabiani] Who are the negotiators on the Kurdish and Italian sides as we speak right now?

[Barmani] Who knows? The Kurds who are holding the guests have not been contacted and Italian diplomats are going around Tehran talking to whomever. No, this is most definitely not the right way.

[Fabiani] Do you want to send a message to the Italian Government?

[Barmani] So what is this interview?

Reaction to New U.S. Secretary of Defense

Peres Comments on Ties

TA051938 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who was hosted by the Hatiqva quarter of Tel Aviv today, revealed an initial reaction to the replacement of the secretary of defense in the United States. Minister Peres said he hopes that the reshuffle between Caspar Weinberger and Frank Carlucci will not affect the U.S. Administration's policy toward Israel.

[Begin Peres recording] Relations between the United States and Israel in the security field are not just relations among people. I do not anticipate any change in policy. [end recording]

No Change Expected

TA051214 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Nov 87 pp 1, 8

[Report by Joshua Brilliant and Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] Tel Aviv—U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defence Richard Armitage said here yesterday he believed incoming Secretary of Defence Frank Carlucci would not change policy towards Israel.

There will be "more of the same," he told defence reporters after meeting with Defence Minister Rabin. "You'll see no deviation from the cooperation in which we're engaged with Israel."

A senior Israeli defence official, speaking privately, said later he too expected no policy change. Carlucci is assuming the new post only a year before President Reagan steps down, so there won't be much time to introduce changes, he said. Carlucci may be able to make a greater impact if he retains that post under the next president—but that is too early to predict, all the more so since Carlucci is not known to be a close supporter of Vice President George Bush.

Armitage, who heads the unit handling international security affairs, wound up his two day visit to Israel saying he believed he had set the stage for the next round of strategic discussions—the joint security assistance planning talks—scheduled to take place in Washington from November 17 to 19.

The last round of talks, in October, was cut short when Defence Ministry Director-General David 'Ivri was called home for the funeral of his son, Seren [Captain] Gil 'Ivri.

Yesterday's talks were largely devoted to a dicussion of numerous research, development and procurement issues. Armitage described his visit as a goodwill trip "of sorts."

The talks were held amid Israeli concern over the effects of the economic crisis in the U.S. Israeli officials have been worried about the actual military aid package of $1.8 billion. The U.S. undertook to provide that sum for another two years only, and it was not clear what would happen after that.

At yesterday's talks with Rabin—and in earlier meetings with Prime Minister Shamir and Vice Premier Peres—Armitage reiterated that the U.S. stands firm behind its commitments for off-shore procurements and directed offsets. One of his assignments was to assure Israeli leaders of this commitment, he said, "and I have done that."

These commitments call for U.S. purchases in Israel to the tune of $150m. a year, over the next two years, and for paying some $300m. to $400m. for goods the Israeli defence establishment will produce here for the IDF's use.

One of the topics discussed was the price Israel would pay for the additional F-16s it seeks in place of the Lavi it decided not to build. Armitage said he discussed ways to get "the best possible deal" regarding F-16s. Israel wants Washington to negotiate the price on its behalf and get the manufacturers to knock it down to what the U.S. Air Force pays. But it was not clear whether the U.S. Administration was willing to do so.

Defence sources told *The Jerusalem Post* that Israel has not formally requested to co-produce the F-16, nor made any formal decision about what version of the aircraft it requires and in what numbers.

These sources pointed out that Israel was only in the very early stages of examining the implications of the Lavi cancellation, and assessing Israel's future military needs. Until final closure costs are estimated, including penalty payments that could be anywhere between $400 million, and the defence establishment knows how much money it has available, no firm decisions will be made on any major weapons systems.

Included in this category is the procurement of 75 additional F-16s, in either the C or Agile Falcon versions, the Saar 5 missile boat and participation on a 20/80 basis (with the U.S. putting up the 80 per cent) on the development of an anti-tactical-ballistic-missile system.

'Western Sources' Confirm Shamir-Husayn Meeting

TA060933 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Nov 87 pp A1, 2

[Excerpt] Western sources argue that despite the denials issued by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office, a meeting did take place between him and King Husayn. According to these sources, the meeting occurred in London 3 months ago.

At the beginning of the week, the U.S. magazine *Newsweek* reported on a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and King Husayn in the 'Arava. The Prime Minister's Office and Shamir denied the report.

The Prime Minister's Office continued to adhere to its original reaction yesterday as well, noting that *Newsweek* had carried the report on the page regarded as a gossip column.

The Western sources who confirmed the Husayn-Shamir meeting noted that U.S. officials had not known of the meeting in advance. This also contradicts *Newsweek's* report that the Americans were the ones who had pressured the Jordanian king to confer with Yitzhaq Shamir.

Israeli Government sources point out that Shamir has never had any reservations about meeting with King Husayn and has said as much, publicly as well, on many occasions. [passage omitted]

Peres Interviewed on Peace Process, Arab Summit

TA051727 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Dan Margalit on the "New Evening" program—live in the studio]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Margalit] Mr Peres, let us discuss the political sector. The Arab summit conference is to take place in another 3 days and this morning you said—or so I heard on IDF Radio—that Jordan's economic distress may actually encourage it to make a political settlement with Israel soon. And so I ask you, why? After all, if Jordan is in economic distress, it will want Arab money, and Arab money, from Saudi Arabia for example, does not encourage a settlement with Israel.

[Peres] Jordan certainly does need Arab money, and it is for this reason that it is hosting a conference. But Arab money is not enough to answer its needs. For example, Jordan wants to buy planes and the Soviets are offering them the MIG-29. For the time being Saudi Arabia has decided not to finance, or has not decided yet to finance, the MIG-29. The main problem, if you look at this not just in terms of 1 or 2 years, but in terms of 5 years, is—both for them and for us—what will we do when a plane costs not $30 million, as it does today, but $60 or $90 million, given the economic situation in the world?

[Margalit] Is it worrying Jordan?

[Peres] It is worrying Jordan, it is worrying us, it is worrying Egypt, with a never-ending population growth, with a decrease in oil income. Consider the case of Jordan. Jordan had 450,000 workers abroad, in the oil-producing countries, from a population of less than 3 million. These countries are beginning to send these workers home, or they are not being allowed to transfer their incomes to Jordan. Formally, unemployment in Jordan has now increased to 10 percent. Informally, they are talking about more than that. Islands—I could say beards—of fundamentalists, of Khomeynism, are beginning to blossom in those places.

[Margalit] In Jordan, too?

[Peres] In Jordan, too.

[Margalit] If I have understood you correctly, what follows from this is that the Jordanians can actually emerge from their upcoming summit closer to an international conference, or an international opening as you call it, that would further the chances of negotiations. But that conference, after all, is actually controlled, or very much influenced, by the extremists—by Syria and the PLO, which is becoming closer to Syria.

[Peres] First of all, there is nothing automatic about a political process. It may very well be that this conference will polarize the Arab world. Nothing is in the bag and what you say may well happen, although the Syrians are going to that conference and asking for a double payment: one payment for their participation in the conference, to be paid by Saudi Arabia, and the second payment for their position in the conference, which will be paid by Iran. They always insist on a double payment. There is a front against Iran and there is a front against Syria, but there certainly is a chance for peace. If we put it off, we may well find it eroded and no longer in existence.

[Margalit] That is if Israel exhibits intransigency. Based on what has been published in the U.S. press, would you say that at his meeting with King Husayn, Mr Shamir formed the impression that Husayn wants a settlement?

[Peres] You have already brought in everything you want me to confirm and say that there was a meeting and...

[Margalit, interrupting] Yes.

[Peres] I know nothing of that. What I do know is that it is written in the press. I have heard Mr Shamir come out against an international conference, against an international opening. In my view, without an international opening there will be no peace process.

[Margalit] Is that also what Husayn told him?

[Peres] I do not know of that meeting. You know of it, so you also know what was said there.

[Margalit] I cannot know more than you, Mr Peres.

[Peres] If you cannot know more than me, do not say things in my name that I have not said.

[Margalit] I am just asking.

[Peres] I am just answering.

[Margalit] Yes. Now, some more on the matter of the Israeli position. If there is a chance of moderation, let us say, or goodwill by Jordan, why are you not resuming the sharp fight you conducted 1 month or 6 weeks ago? Why don't you say, this is something so important that it is no less worthwhile blowing up the government over it than it is over a guarantee to the kibbutzim and moshavim?

[Peres] Look, first of all, I think we have to wait for two events on our agenda to conclude. One event is the conference in Amman. I think that there is nothing to say and nobody with whom to speak until after that conference, because that conference is most important for the Jordanians. It provides Amman with a special status. It provides King Husayn's renewed status in Jordan with legitimization...

[Margalit, interrupting] Excuse me, but as part of the extremist camp in the Arab world, because even Egypt...

[Peres, interrupting] No, I do not know if this is as a part, because those paying are not the extremist part. The extremist part is also the miserly part. Those paying are not the extremists. They are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait; they are only superficially extremist. They have no interest in a victory for Khomeyni, or Al-Qadhdhafi, or Syria. Let us make no mistake about this. Another thing is that it is hoped to renew what is called the Baghdad grants. Several countries agreed, in Baghdad, to pay Jordan, Syria, the PLO, and so on, a sum of close to $3 billion a year. It is true that the full sum has never been paid.

[Margalit] Let them arrange for a state guarantee.

[Peres] So there is not much to be done until that summit. Now, there is another summit, a summit conference, on 7 December in Washington. That is also a very important conference.

[Margalit] That is the conference between Gorbachev and Mr Reagan, but we really cannot go into that now. Thank you, Mr Peres.

Spain 'Indefinitely Postpones' Sharon Visit

TA060935 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Nov 87 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Text] Spain has "indefinitely postponed" the scheduled official visit to Madrid of Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon, which was to have begun on November 16.

It is understood that Spain took the decision in deference to strong Arab pressures brought to bear in advance of next week's Arab summit meeting in Amman.

Sources in Jerusalem said that the decision was taken by "pro-Arab officials" in Madrid who "took advantage" of the absence of Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and Foreign Minister Francisco Fernando Ordonez, who are visiting Latin America.

The president of the Israel Chamber of Commerce, Dan Gillerman, who was to have headed the delegation of some 35 industrialists and importers accompanying Sharon, last night criticized the Spanish decision as "submission to Arab pressures."

Economic sources in Jerusalem said the Spanish decision will "considerably damage the economic relations between the two countries, which have recently begun to develop, and it will cloud our political relations as well. We regard this step as grave."

Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem said last night that "as far as we know, the visit is still on." The Spanish decision, communicated to the Israeli Embassy in Madrid, had not reached Jerusalem.

The visit of Sharon and the delegation was aimed at promoting trade and a number of commercial and scientific research agreements were to have been signed.

Yugoslavia Considering Diplomatic Relations

TA060926 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Nov 87 p 2

[Report by the diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] The Yugoslav leadership is studying the possibility of establishing low-level diplomatic relations with Israel, sources in Jerusalem said yesterday.

The sources were basing themselves on a conversation held this week, probably in a European capital, beteen senior Israeli and Yugoslav diplomats. The Yugoslav diplomat, it is understood, heard directly about the re-evaluation of relations with Israel from one of the Yugoslav leaders.

In the conversation, the Yugoslav diplomat reportedly expressed the hope that relations between the two countries will improve.

The sources in Jerusalem said that Israel does not intend to take any initiative in this respect. "We will wait and see what they do," they said. Israel's policy is not to woo "reluctant" countries, but to wait for concrete action by them.

'Last Attempt' at Tabah Arbitration in Geneva

TA051316 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Nov 87 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] A last attempt to settle the Tabah dispute between Israel and Egypt outside the international arbitration process will be made in Geneva at the end of the month.

Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir will meet with the Egyptian and U.S. representatives and try to examine ways to reach an arrangement which will prevent the lengthy discussions expected as part of an arbitration process.

Israel is agreeable to several solutions, as long as it is permitted to manage the Avia Sonesta Hotel. One of the proposals is that the Tabah area will be leased out to the World Bank or another international body which will in turn lease it back to Israel. Another proposal states that the area will be divided out in a way that will leave the hotel inside Israeli territory. Egypt has thus far rejected all these proposals and is demanding an arrangement which will give it full sovereignty over Tabah.

Palestinians' Memorandum Presented to Chirac

JN052137 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Excerpts] French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and Palestinian figures in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have stressed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Chirac said: We continue to adhere to the idea of convening an international peace conference with the participation of all parties to the dispute, including effective PLO participation, because this is one of the requirements of the conference's success. [passage omitted]

The meeting was attended by the French ministers of external affairs, culture, and scientific research. It was also attended by the following Palestinian figures:

Mustafa 'Abd al-Nabi al-Natshah, dismissed mayor of Hebron; Fayiz Abu Rahmah, doyen of Gaza lawyers; Mahmud Abu al-Zuluf, proprietor and editor in chief of *Al-Quds* newspaper; Dr Sa'ib 'Urayqat, professor at Al-Najah National University; Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, president of the Arab Writers' Union and editor of *Al-'Awdah* magazine; Dr Hatim Abu Ghazalah, president of the Franco-Palestinian Friendship Association; Hanna Sinyurah, proprietor and editor in chief of the *Al-Fajr* newspaper; and Dr Sari Nusaybah, professor at Bi'r Zayt University.

The Palestinian figures signed a memorandum, which included the Palestinian principles, and presented it to the French prime minister.

Also taking part in the meeting were the chairman of the board of trustees of Al-Najajh University; Rashad al-Shawwa, dismissed Gaza mayor; and Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj.

Discussion centered on the Palestinian conditions in the occupied territory in terms of the people's life under occupation and their political and economic conditions. The Palestinian figures renewed our people's adherence to the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They also discussed the issue of the international conference. The French ministers affirmed that France continues to be very much interested in the international conference and in PLO presence at the conference.

The Palestinian figures handed Chirac a memorandum reiterating the following Palestinian principles:

1. The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, both under occupation and in the diaspora. We reject all attempts and plots, regardless of their sources, which seek to replace the PLO or end its representation.

2. Our people in the occupied territory support a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestinian problem and believe that convening the international conference with the participation of the two superpowers, the other permanent members of the UN Security Council, and the parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is the only means of reaching peace in the region.

3. Our Palestinian people affirm that there will be no comprehensive peace or settlement in the region and no solution for the Palestinian problem unless the Palestinian people's legitimate rights are recognized. These rights include self-determination, the establishment of a Palestinian state on Palestinian soil, and the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland.

4. Our people reiterate that the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 are not a correct basis for reaching a permanent and fair settlement for the Palestinian problem because they deal with the Palestinian issue as a problem of refugees and not a national political issue.

5. Our people support the [word indistinct] EEC statement and stress the importance of France's positive role in pushing the peace process forward. We hope that this positive role will continue in order to find a just, honorable, and permanent solution for the central issue in the Middle East conflict.

6. Our people under occupation assert that the daily Zionist practices, which over the past 20 years have taken the form of building settlements and violating

human rights, completely violate the UN Charter and international law and constitute a stumbling block on the road to just and permanent peace in the region.

Weizman Denies Rumored Meeting With PLO

TA061325 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Nov 87, p 1

[Report by Geneva correspondents Sari Robert and Menahem Rahat]

[Text] Arab circles in Geneva are spreading rumors concerning a meeting between Minister 'Ezer Weizman and PLO senior officers that took place in Geneva on 29 October. The sources said that the meeting was initiated by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Israeli representations in Switzerland said they had no knowledge of Minister Weizman's visit to Geneva. PLO delegate to the United Nations Nabil al-Ramlawi also denied the story. Menahem Rahat reports Minister Weizman's reaction last night: "The whole story is nothing but imagination, because I did not leave Germany during the 4 days I stayed there."

Lahd Discusses Hizballah Plans, UNIFIL Bias

TA051612 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Excerpts] General Antoine Lahd, South Lebanese Army [SLA] commander, says that he has received information according to which Hizballah fighters are planning to attack his soldiers. Lahd, speaking at a press conference in Metulla, stated that the SLA was prepared for this. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports from the north:

[Begin recording] Gen Lahd, referring to the incidents that occurred yesterday during which dozens of Hizballah fighters attacked an SLA post in southern Lebanon, emphasized that the terrorists are passing freely near UNIFIL posts. Lahd says that UNIFIL commander, General Gustaf Haegglund is refusing to meet with him in order to discuss appropriate security arrangements for southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Lahd said that the UNIFIL commander is participating in fancy dinners with other militia commanders in southern Lebanon whose stand is no different than that of the SLA, while refusing to meet with him.

Early yesterday morning, two UNIFIL soldiers from the Irish contingent were wounded by shots fired by their comrades, who mistook them for terrorists. [end recording]

Negotiations for IDF Captives

TA051920 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] General Antoine Lahd, SLA commander, has said that negotiations are being conducted for the exchange of the Israeli navigator and IDF soldiers being held captive, along with SLA soldiers jailed in the Al-Khiyam camp in southern Lebanon.

Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, comments that at a news conference in Metulla, Gen Lahd said he does not believe that the negotiations over the exchange of captives will produce positive results. He explained that the Lebanese elements involved in the negotiations are constantly waiting for instructions from foreign elements in Lebanon. And, in his opinion, these negotiations have no chance of succeeding.

Herzog Seeks Danes' Help With MIA's in Lebanon

For reportage on President Hayim Herzog's trip to Denmark to ask for aid in locating Israeli soldiers missing in action in Lebanon and in ironing out problems with the EC, see the Denmark subsection of the Nordic Countries section of the 5 November *West Europe Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Editorial Urges Review of Military Court Verdicts

TA051534 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 4 Nov 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "So That Israel Will Exonerate Itself"]

[Text] The Israeli commission chaired by Judge Moshe Landau was set up to investigate the practices of the Israeli security services. This commission reached certain conclusions that were published in a report issued in its name about interrogations and extraction of confessions from security defendants.

The report is a clear indictment of the methods of interrogation and extraction of information and confessions. We are not in a position here that enables us to evaluate this report. But it should be stated that international organizations such as Amnesty International, as well as various UN fact-finding commissions in the occupied areas, have found in this report the answer to their accusations and claims. The report clearly shows that Israel violates human rights laws.

Perhaps the thing that wounds the heart most is what a large number of Israeli lawyers who took on the defense of the Palestinians have confirmed; namely, that hundreds of Palestinians have been unjustly convicted on the basis of false testimony by Israeli security services personnel.

As for the Israeli courts which placed their trust in the Israeli security services, there is no doubt that this report has generated large question marks about the information that has already been presented or will be presented to these courts by the security services.

After the revelation of all these findings and after the 20 years that the Palestinian people have spent under occupation, we are still incapable of effecting any change in these methods and practices. Therefore, for the sake of achieving the minimum degree of justice, we ask that courts of appeal be allowed to review the verdicts issued by military courts that look into security matters. At present these verdicts are considered final and only in exceptional cases are they appealed to the Israeli Supreme Court.

IAI Decides To Develop Lavi Avionics Package

TA060939 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Nov 87 p 1

[Report by defense correspondent Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] has decided to develop the cancelled Lavi fighter's avionics package. The development, including the building of the third Lavi prototype (B3), will take four years and cost around $85 million.

IAI officials feel that despite the cancellation of the Lavi project, the sophisticated avionics package developed for the fighter is highly marketable. One contract for tens of millions of dollars has already been signed with foreign customers.

IAI's decision is based on several factors. The Lavi's avionics—its radar, self-protection and fly-by-wire systems—are among the most sophisticated in the world, and have been recognized as such by many potential clients, including the Americans. The package fits both the upgrading and development programmes now on the drawing boards in several countries and will thus have real export potential. Over $100 million has already been spent on avionic development that would be wasted if the programme were not continued.

The project's timetable has the B3's fuselage and wings arriving from Grumman in the U.S. at the end of this year, and the "black boxes" being lab tested in early 1988 and installed in the B3 test aircraft in the spring of the same year. The first flight is scheduled for February 1989.

The most controversial part of the programme continues to be the building of the B3 prototype at a cost of $25 million, but this, according to IAI, is the cheapest available option. Converting either the Lavi 1 or 2 prototypes used to test the plane's aeronautic performance, it was found, would cost more than building a new frame specifically designed to test the integration of the combined avionics package.

As the officials pointed out yesterday, the company, despite having to dismiss 3,000 employees in the wake of the Lavi cancellation, remains a billion dollar concern with 16,000 highly trained workers involved in a wide range of civilian and military production programmes. While the Lavi cancellation was a blow to the company, it was far from a mortal one, and, as some are now saying, it may have been a blessing in disguise.

In order to reorganize and maintain work for its 16,000 employees, IAI will have to be able to compete for more maintenance work for American forces in Europe and in three fields in the U.S.: civilian and military maintenance, specifically engine refurbishment; joint developments with the American Armed Forces; and the sale of IAI-manufactured products to U.S. civilian and military markets. At present IAI business in the U.S. totals around $200 million a year, and it is hoped to increase this by $1 million.

Treasury Reported Discussing New Economic Plan

TA051357 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 87 pp 1, 6

[Report by Tzvi Zerahya]

[Text] The top echelon of the Treasury is working on a new economic plan, which will be presented together with the 1988 state budget. The plan will be implemented at the beginning of next year. Its aim is to assure a stabilization in the balance of payments, as well as a slowing down of inflation.

A blackout has been imposed on the details of the plan. It was learned last night that the central feature will be a comprehensive "package deal" which will involve the government, the Histadrut, and the employers, as well as a big budget cut. The details of the plan have still not been finalized, and it appears that several more weeks are needed.

During the past few days, Finance Minister Moshe Nisim held consultations on the new plan, in which the governor of the Bank of Israel, the head of the bank's Research Department, the director general of the Treasury, and the Budget Department heads, all participated. Nisim will meet today with Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar. It is not clear whether Nisim will present Qeysar with the principles of the plan today.

Senior officials in the Treasury gave *Ha'aretz* prelimary details of the plan being worked out:

Budget cuts: Some 750 million shekels are considered being cut. An especially big cut is planned for subsidies. At present some 160 million shekels more than budgeted are spent on this item. The finance minister cannot now increase the price of subsidized goods because of the price stability agreement he signed several months ago with the Histadrut secretary general. Following a cut in

subsidies, an increase of several dozen percent is expected for bread, milk and milk products, frozen chicken, and public transportation.

In private talks, Histadrut leaders did not reject the Treasury plan to raise the price of subsidized goods starting the beginning of April on the condition that there would be another long price freeze afterwards. The Treasury might ask the Histadrut to move up the date of the price increases to the beginning of next year in order to avoid the need for sharp increases in April 1988.

Large cuts are expected in the budgets of most government ministries, including the Education, Health, and Labor and Social Welfare Ministries.

Devaluation: The economic leaders propose carrying out a moderate devaluation of up to 10 percent at the beginning of next year. It will be implemented only after the industrialists commit themselves to absorb part of it and not raise prices to the full extent of the devaluation. The Histadrut will be called on to give up part of the cost-of-living increase resulting from the devaluation. Treasury officials believe this will prevent an inflationary spiral. The defense budget will not be cut.

Tax reforms: The finance minister is waiting for the decisions of the Shishinsky committee before carrying out a comprehensive tax reform. The Treasury will likely adopt the principles being worked out in the committee for a massive cancellation of tax loopholes coupled with a tax cut. Nisim is expected to give up on implementing some of the recommendations in return for the Histadrut's signing a comprehensive economic agreement.

Treasury top brass believe that the tax reform will lead to an increase in take-home pay in the lower and medium brackets. This wage increase will replace an overall gross salary increase in the coming year and will be part of a new wage agreement for the years 1988 to 1990.

Cuts in labor costs: The government will again cut National Insurance payments by employers. In this way it will avoid the need for a relatively large devaluation. The Treasury has allocated some 200 million shekels for this purpose.

A new agreement on a cost-of-living increase: The Treasury wants to change the cost-of-living increase agreement which expires at the end of March. Treasury officials believe the percentage linked to the cost-of-living payment should be cut and adjusted to the present relatively low inflation rate. The Treasury heads recently explained their position to the Coordinating Bureau of Economic Organizations prior to expected discussions on this issue between the employers and the Histadrut.

The implementation of the offset of the cost-of-living increase will be made in the next cost-of-living payment, which will most likely be paid in early March 1988.

Nisim recently said that his policy was aimed at assuring the continuation of economic stability and that the government would not do anything to upset this. But the *Ha'aretz* correspondent points out that remarks in a similar spirit were made merely 24 hours before a 10-percent devaluation last January. Nisim later explained that the devaluation, which was only partially compensated for, did not have a destabilizing influence.

Package deal: Immediately after the details of the budget cuts are completed, the finance minister will begin discussions with Histadrut leaders and the employers on a new package deal. The deal will include a continued price freeze, an offset in the cost-of-living increase, a continuation of budget restraint, devaluation, and the implementation of parts of the tax reform.

Top economic figures said the plan being worked out is in fact a compromise between the position of the Treasury and that of the Bank of Israel.

It has been learned that at the start of the talks on the economic plan, the heads of the Bank of Israel firmly opposed any sort of devaluation for a long time to come. They said that this way it will be possible to cut the inflation rate to 10 percent per annum.

Statistics Show Rise in Wages, Imports in 1987

TA061000 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Nov 87 p 1

[Report by economic correspondents Shlomo Ma'oz and Avi Temkin]

[Text] Real wages are now 4 to 5 per cent higher than they were in 1983, when then Finance Minister Yoram Aridor was implementing his "correct economics." This emerged from figures released yesterday by government statistician Moshe Sicron, when he presented the Statistical Abstract of Israel 1987 to the press.

Gross wages rose by 8 per cent in real terms in 1986, and, according to estimates by the Central Bureau of Statistics [CBS], they are expected to show a similar increase this year. The rise in net wages for 1987 is expected to be larger, about 9 per cent.

Productivity also rose last year, according to the figures' by 4 per cent.

The rise in salaries was especially marked in the business sector—9 per cent in 1986 and a further 8 per cent this year, following a 7 per cent drop in 1985. As a result, workers in that sector are significantly better off than they were in 1983. Their earnings are 9 per cent higher now than they were then.

For workers in the public sector, the picture was not so bright. They enjoyed a 4 per cent rise in real salaries in 1986, and a further boost of 8 per cent in 1987. But these increases were not enough to compensate for the 14 per

cent slashed from their paychecks in 1985. Their wages are still about 3 per cent lower than they were in 1983, on the eve of the economic stabilization plan.

Sicron estimated that the standard of living will rise 4 to 5 per cent in 1987, following the record increase of 12 per cent in 1986. The cumulative 17 per cent rise in the standard of living came after two years of austerity, and took Israelis to a new peak in consumption, 5 per cent above the pre-bank shares crash level of 1983.

The standard of living went up despite an increased tax burden. While the Treasury has been telling the public that taxes have been going down, it has also been cutting subsidies. As a result, the net tax burden rose from 17 per cent of the Gross National Product in 1984 to 28 per cent in 1986.

The bureau's figures showed output markedly higher. Agriculture, industry and building all registered increases of 6 to 7 per cent. This happened while employment rose by only 2 to 3 per cent, which means that Israeli workers increased their productivity by about 4 per cent.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 6 November in a report on page 2 by the economic correspondent in Jerusalem adds that "unemployment in 1987 has dropped to 6 percent, compared with 7.1 percent in 1986."]

The gross domestic product is therefore expected to rise about 4 per cent and the product of the business sector by 5 per cent.

The falling value of the dollar in the last two years has been giving headaches to the CBS statisticians. Sicron said yesterday that in 1987 the gap between civilian imports and total exports was $400 million larger than in the previous year, and $1.1 billion larger than in 1985. But he said a large part of this increase did not reflect a higher volume of imports, but the fact that, due to the falling dollar, imports from Europe were dearer in dollar terms.

The bureau's figures showed that imports of goods for the first 10 months of the year totalled $9.2 billion, $1.7 billion more than in the same period last year, a rise of 22 per cent.

Population Statistics Noted

TA060957 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Nov 87 p 17

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Excerpt] The country's gross domestic product will register an increase of about 4 per cent in 1987, according to preliminary estimates by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The GDP of the business sector is expected to rise by 5 per cent, according to the same estimates.

Speaking yesterday at a press conference in Jerusalem, Government Statistician Moshe Sicron said growth was visible in almost all of the economy's sectors. Industrial output is expected to grow by 7 per cent this year. Agricultural output is expected to increase by 6 per cent. Even the construction sector, which had remained stagnant for a few years, will register a rise of about 7 per cent in 1987, he said.

Sicron presented the Statistical Abstract of Israel for 1987. He said that the bureau estimates that Israel's population will rise by 1.2 per cent this year, compared to 1.8 per cent in the early years of the decade. He added that in 1987 a negative migration balance is expected. The number of emmigrants is expected to exceed the one for immigrants by 2,000 to 3,000.

The CBS estimated Israel's population at the beginning of this month at about 4,380,000 persons. The number of Jews totalled 3.6m, some 82 per cent of the total. The number of Moslems totalled 604,000, 13.8 per cent of the total. Christians totalled 101,000, 2.3 per cent of the population, and the number of Druse was 74,000, 1.7 per cent of the number of inhabitants.

Israel's Jewish population during 1987 rose by about 1.2 per cent, Sicron said. He said that the rate of increase of the Arab population was about the figure for Jews. But Sicron indicated the slowdown in the pace of increase of Israel's Arab population was also visible in 1987, as it had been in the last decade. Fertility in the Arab sector has gone down from 9 to 10 children for one woman 15 years ago to some 4 to 5 in 1987.

If the present trends in population growth are to continue, the number of inhabitants will reach 5.2 to 5.5 million and in 2010 there will be 5.7 to 6.5 million persons in Israel. In the year 2000 the share of Jews in the total population will reach 78 per cent, and in 2010 it will be 76 per cent. These figures do not take into account the population in the administered territories. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Receives Moroccan Envoys, Message
JN051705 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Ahmed Bensouda, an adviser to His Majesty King Hassan II, at Al-Nadwah Palace this afternnon. They conveyed a message to his majesty from his brother, the Moroccan monarch.

In his message, His Majesty King Hassan II reiterated his support for Jordan's efforts, under His Excellency King Husayn, to make the Arab summit a success. He also expressed Morocco's readiness to do its best to aid efforts to help the summit produce positive results for confronting the dangers facing the Arab nation and for achieving Arab solidarity.

The meeting was attended by Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the foreign minister, and the Moroccan ambassador to Amman.

The two Moroccan envoys departed Amman this afternoon. They were seen off at the airport by Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, and the Moroccan ambassador to Amman.

Foreign Minister Views Gulf War, Arab Summit
PM051601 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 31 Oct 87 pp 19-20

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] *Al-Tadamun*: Do you believe the Arab summit conference will be held on schedule? Will all Arab issues be raised at the summit or will the conference be devoted strictly to the Iraq-Iran war?

Al-Masri: It has been decided to hold a summit. Preparations are underway for it, and efforts are being made to ensure its success. All Arab states have agreed to attend. During the recent Tunis meeting, which mainly discussed the summit and the topics to be raised there, it was unanimously agreed that it is extremely important for this conference to be held. This is because the Arab situation, inter-Arab relations, and dangers threatening this nation have reached a very serious stage requiring a major move by Arab leaders.

It is true that there was limited disagreement, but this was not over the topics to be discussed. Syria desired a general discussion of all matters of interest to the Arab nation. The meeting will certainly concentrate on the Iraq-Iran war and Gulf developments since these are now very serious and hot issues, but other matters will not be overlooked. The summit will be a very good opportunity for Arab leaders to discuss all topics. However, the burning issues that require solutions are the Iraq-Iran war and Gulf developments. [passage omitted]

Al-Tadamun: Considering the failure of the Tunis meeting, what are the chances of adopting a unified Arab stand toward the war?

Al-Masri: The Tunis meeting was not a failure. The Arab League ministerial meeting unanimously passed a resolution on the Iraq-Iran conflict. It also unanimously decided to call a summit and agreed without dissent on the topics to be discussed, with only Syrian reservations being expressed. A semi-consensus was thus reached on this matter. [passage omitted]

Al-Tadamun: Did you receive Syria's promise to attend the conference?

Al-Masri: Yes.

Al-Tadamun: So this summit could produce a unanimous resolution?

Al-Masri: That is our objective.

Al-Tadamun: Are circumstances ripe for ending the Iraq-Iran war?

Al-Masri: Circumstances are always ripe for ending the war. Everyone is calling for an end to it and everyone says that this conflict has continued for far too long. Everyone acknowledges Iraq's moderate stance and everyone blames Iran for not responding to Resolution 598 and calls to end the war. [passage omitted]

Al-Tadamun: Don't you believe that Iran really wants to end this war and that it is starting to respond to international efforts for this reason?

Al-Masri: We do not trust Iranian intentions. That is why we urge everyone to respond to Iraq's peaceful approach and maintain the pressure on Iran, even if this means another Security Council resolution imposing sanctions.

Al-Tadamun: Could we therefore term this summit as one of confrontation with Iran?

Al-Masri: That is not our intention. No Arab state desires confrontation with Iran. Iran is the aggressor and it is attacking and occupying Arab territory. Iran has expanded its aggression to include Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. We Arabs do not have any ambitions; we don't wish confrontation with anyone. That has never been our intention.

Al-Tadamun: In the context of this war, do you think that this concentration of foreign fleets in the Gulf is necessary?

Al-Masri: We should not start at the end in tackling this matter. Since the purpose of these press interviews is to enlighten Arab public opinion, we should start at the beginning to learn why these fleets are in the Gulf. The reason for this is Iran's frequent aggression against international shipping, particularly against vessels coming to or from Kuwait and other Arab Gulf states. These fleets are there, above all else, to protect international waters and international trade. When the Iranian danger and the Iranian threat to international shipping have ended, then all these fleets must leave. [passage omitted]

Al-Tadamun: Are there any ideas such as the summit forming an Arab heads of state delegation to mediate between Iraq and Iran?

Al-Masri: I do not believe such an idea is under consideration. That is an impractical idea.

Al-Tadamun: Why do you consider it impractical?

Al-Masri: Our experience with Iran is not new. Iran still insists on its old position. That is why all international and regional efforts to mediate have failed. I do not consider that approach beneficial. What is beneficial is that we should not appear to be mere spectators or neutral on this issue. Iran should know that we oppose its aggression against Iraq and oppose continuation of the war. We should support Iraq as one Arab nation to demonstrate this. [passage omitted]

Al-Tadamun: Are you presently playing any role between the United States and Syria?

Al-Masri: No, not at all. The Syrians do not need us for that purpose.

Al-Tadamun: With the continual ups and downs, do you see any possibility of an international conference materializing?

Al-Masri: Yes. The ups and downs are always there but such a possibility exists. What prevented a conference was a U.S. decision, and also the fact that one-half of Israel opposes these talks.

Al-Tadamun: Do you mean to say that there is now a U.S. decision favoring such a conference?

Al-Masri: No, I did not say that there will be a conference. I am simply answering your question on the possibility of this. There is such a possibility, if we can get a U.S. decision and if the Israeli opposition to a conference recedes.

Al-Tadamun: But Israel has always made Soviet-Israeli relations a precondition.

Al-Masri: I am not sure that such a precondition exists any more. When Peres discusses this matter, he just calls for an international conference.

Al-Tadamun: In other words, Peres could overlook this precondition.

Al-Masri: Yes, this is possible, since that precondition is unacceptable anyway.

Al-Tadamun: The Soviets have made some considerable gains in the region. Do you believe that Washington is beginning to fear this Soviet advance, particularly in connection with Soviet-Israeli relations?

Al-Masri: The United States is not opposed to such things. On the contrary, it insists that the Soviets should restore ties with Israel.

Al-Tadamun: What about the Arab states and the Soviet Union?

Al-Masri: That remains within the context of what is reasonable and within the context of balanced steps. Regardless of what the United States believes on this matter, it comes under the policies of states and they are clear and specific. We have not heard any objections to this position.

Al-Tadamun: What about the obstacle of Palestinian representation at the conference?

Al-Masri: There is no obstacle regarding Palestinian representation. It will be through the PLO.

Al-Tadamun: As part of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

Al-Masri: Yes, that is what we are saying.

Al-Tadamun: In other words, you want to revive the Amman agreement.

Al-Masri: The Amman agreement has been abrogated. It is now up to the two sides, the PLO and Jordan, to consider what kind of relationship they want to have. The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement that has been abrogated did not cover only the question of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. It touched on many other things, but I don't think that there is a problem concerning Palestinian representation. [passage omitted]
Al-Tadamun: Do you think that, following the latest PNC session and the concessions 'Arafat had to make in the interest of Palestinian unity, that the PLO can still come to some agreement with Jordan as in the past?

Al-Masri: You journalists always ask such questions in a way that does not reflect the real state of relations, as if there was a war between us and the PLO. Jordan does not impose any conditions on the PLO. We are trying to adapt to the international situation. The other side also has its demands. We can neither control the international reality nor the other side, which is Israel. So, when we call for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, we are being realistic and objective. We will not object if all

sides accept separate delegations, and we will not object if the PLO can find acceptance of its participation without a prior commitment to Resolution 242. We have no problem with the PLO.

Al-Tadamun: In your view, are Palestinian circumstances right for a return to a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

Al-Masri: When the PLO Executive Committee abrogated the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, it committed itself to the principles of that agreement. One such principle is related to the question of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The implicit understanding is that the PLO is still committed to this. I must seriously consider what they say and deal with them accordingly. I do not want to draw conclusions or imagine things; I deal with what is in front of me.

Al-Tadamun: And how will you tackle Syria's objection?

Al-Masri: What does Syria have to do with this?

Al-Tadamun: It had taken a stand that affected this question of a joint delegation.

Al-Masri: But this is something that we and the PLO decide.

Al-Tadamun: But Syria has vetoed this.

Al-Masri: Not at all. It is true that Syria held a different opinion, but no one vetoes Jordan's decisions.

Al-Tadamun: What is the state of Jordanian-Syrian relations today?

Al-Masri: Good.

Al-Tadamun: Are any efforts being made to raise the question of Egypt's return to the Arab League?

Al-Masri: There can be no doubt that the question of Egypt's return is being raised in Arab lobbies. There are states that are all for this. Jordan certainly has no problem with this because it has already restored relations with Egypt. I really don't know whether this matter will be raised elsewhere or at the Amman summit, but it is on the minds of all Arab states.

AL-SHIRA' on Possible Release of Hostage

NC061254 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1235 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] The weekly magazine *Al-Shira'*, which is close to Hizballah, cites an informed spiritual Islamic source as saying that he expects FRG hostage Rudolf Cordes to be released in return for a deal similar to that which led to FRG hostage Alfred Schmidt's release. Schmidt was released in September in return for $2 million. At that time, the Bonn government denied paying any ransom for his freedom. The Islamic source believes it is likely that the problem of foreign hostages in Lebanon will be solved within the framework of arms deals to a certain country in the region.

Groups Threaten to Shell Presidential Palace

JN051516 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 3 Nov 87 p 22

[Excerpt] Beirut—PSP and Amal officials have threatened to shell the Presidential Palace in B'abda on the eve of President Amin al-Jumayyil's departure to attend the 8 November emergency Arab summit in Amman. In a statement to *Al-Qabas*, a PSP military official in an area close to the city of 'Alayh said: We have been given orders to place our artillery on full alert. A truck loaded with ammunition was in fact emptying its load near the center. At the same time, the fighters appeared to be getting over the boredom of the last several months.

This threat has reached B'abda Palace where intensive contacts are being made to deal with the situation. Minister Walid Junblatt informed some political quarters that the presidential helicopter will not be allowed to leave the palace. Meanwhile, informed quarters in East Beirut told *Al-Qabas* that the president might spend the night before his departure to Amman outside B'abda. These sources added that if the situation becomes very delicate the president will leave by sea to Larnaca and from there he will leave for the Jordanian capital.

This confirms reports of a previous warning to President al-Jumayyil published earlier by *Al-Qabas*. That warning said that his helicopter would have an accident en route to the emergency Arab meeting.

East Beirut quarters have said that everything now depends on the results of the efforts being made to keep President Amin al-Jumayyil from speaking during the Amman summit, as he does not reflect the positions of the various Lebanese factions. Otherwise, acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss will deliver a speech in the name of the "other" Lebanese. [passage omitted]

Al-Rasi Leaves for Amman Summit With Memo

NC061244 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] President al-Jumayyil will leave for Amman tomorrow, taking Lebanon's case to the emergency Arab summit.

Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi left for Amman today with a message for the Arab summit explaining the current Lebanese situation.

Official sources at the prime minister's office have denied media reports that Minister al-Rasi is carrying a joint memorandum to the Arab summit from Prime Minister al-Huss and Speaker al-Husayni. The sources said that the memorandum is from Prime Minister al-Huss.

In a predeparture statement, Minister al-Rasi said: I accepted this mission in order to provide further proof that the differences among the Lebanese are not between Muslims and Christians. I was persuaded to accept the mission after Prime Minister al-Huss briefed me about the memorandum being sent to the Arab kings and presidents and after I was completely assured of its contents.

Minister al-Rasi said that the memorandum will be delivered to King Husayn and that he will meet with Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

Syrian Forces Target of 5 Explosions in Beirut

NC051734 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Five devices exploded in West Beirut today. The first one went off at 1722 in the Tallat al-Khayyat area. The second went off in the same area 3 minutes later. Another device went off inside the Al-Sana'i Garden, and two other devices exploded in the corniche Al-Mazra'ah area where Syrian forces are usually deployed.

The Liberation Battalion Organization telephoned Radio Free Lebanon to claim responsibility for these explosions. It said that all the targets were Syrian occupation forces' positions and assembly points, and stressed its determination to continue these operations until the occupation forces evacuate West Beirut.

Pro-Iranian Elements Arrested

NC060808 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] Security sources in northern Lebanon have reported that the Syrian occupation forces have arrested 120 members of pro-Iranian religious fundamentalist groups in the past few hours and subjected them to intensive questioning. According to the sources, some of these fundamentalists have subsequently been released. A large number, however, are still being detained.

Lahd Cited on Israeli Pilot-Prisoners Exchange

NC052023 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Agent Antoine Lahd held a news conference in Metulla today. He said that negotiations are currently under way for an exchange of Arab prisoners, who are held captive by Lahd's militiamen, for an Israeli pilot. Lahd expressed pessimism over the swap because the negotiations are encountering difficulties.

May Enlarge Security Zone

NC051822 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] General Antoine Lahd, the South Lebanese Army commander, has been quoted as saying that he intends to enlarge the security zone if operations against his forces continue. He warned the villages adjacent to the security zone to stop facilitating the passage of gunmen.

Israelis Intercept Ship Off Tyre, Detain People

NC060601 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] As part of its continuing piracy in Lebanese territorial waters, Israeli boats intercepted a Lebanese ship off the Tyre coast yesterday and detained some of its passengers.

Beirut Airport Traffic Remains Suspended

NC061224 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] A responsible source at Beirut International Airport has stated that air traffic at the airport will remain suspended today, pending the outcome of contacts and meetings among officials regarding the resumption of flights.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Gives News Conference in Moscow

AU061152 Paris AFP in English 1123 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] Moscow, Nov 6 (AFP)—The ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan will retain the presidency of Afghanistan and control of the Armed Forces until bloodshed in the country stops and conditions for a withdrawal of Soviet forces guaranteed, Afghan leader Najibullah told a news conference here Friday.

Mr. Najibullah, reaffirming that the Afghan party did not claim a monopoly of power, stressed that "as long as the bloodshed and war continue, as long as conditions are not guaranteed for a withdrawal of Soviet forces, our party will continue to hold the post of chairman of the Revolutionary Council and the post of joint command of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan."

He added that last month's party conference had confirmed that the ruling party was "the only force capable of leading the country out of this prolonged crisis."

Asked about reports from diplomats in Islamabad that the Afghan authorities had arrested hundreds of supporters of ousted President Babrak Karmal, Mr. Najibullah said: "Nothing of the kind happened."

But some party members who were a "barrier" to the 11-month old national reconciliation policy had been reprimanded, he said.

The diplomats said earlier this week that arrests were continuing in the run-up to a traditional meeting or "jirgah" due to approve a new constitution.

Mr. Najibullah also revealed that an unspecified number of "irresponsible" people from five provinces had been punished by the party and the courts for "squandering" funds provided by the Soviet Government. But he stressed that the examples of "misuse of funds" concerned a "limited percentage."

Discussing offers to opposition forces to take part in a coalition government, the Afghan leader said that a "protocol of cooperation" had been signed with two "left-wing democratic organisations."

But he renewed his criticism against the Pakistani-based Alliance of Seven Rebels, saying that the U.S.-backed forces were refusing dialogue and talks. He added: "They do not know how to conduct a political dialogue because they have not got enough culture, neither are they courageous enough."

He said that all responsibility for the continuing war in Afghanistan, where an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops are based, lay "on the shoulders of these most extreme factions" which he said were riven with internal splits.

On relations with Iran, where some 1.5 million Afghan refugees are living, Mr. Najibullah said that while Tehran was "still hostile" to his Soviet-backed government, the Afghan authorities hoped the two countries could "start friendly relations".

Soviet-Kabul Troops Reported Using Chemical Gas

BK061533 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the Soviet-Kabul forces are reported to have used chemical gas in the Moqor area of Ghazni Province, killing four mujahidin. Reports say that an armored unit of the Soviet-Kabul troops attacked the mujahidin's position at Shinkay in the Moqor area, but they were forced to retreat. Nine Soviet-Kabul soldiers were killed and many of them injured in this clash. While retreating, the Soviet-Kabul troops fired chemical gas shells at the Afghan mujahidin.

Clandestine Media's 'Ideological Aggression'

LD161350 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 15, *Bakhtar*—A political observer of *Bakhtar* writes:

The aggregate time of subversive broadcasting to Afghanistan by dozens of radio stations amounts to 110 hours a day, this index having risen 50 times since the April Revolution of 1978. Such are the facts showing that Afghanistan, which is involved in a ferocious undeclared war, is also a target of broad ideological aggression.

A pretty good sum of money went to establish the Afghan news service which publicises terrorist gangs and their armed raids from Pakistan on Afghan territory. America's King Features News Syndicate is responsible for that project.

Pakistan, with its 8 inimical stations, plays a notable role in the anti-Afghan activities. The so-called mobile information centres set up in Lahore and Peshawar are engaged, according to India's *Link* magazine, in spreading slanderous fables about Afghan developments. The Pakistani Government has agreed to allow "Liberty" and "Free Europe" radio station branches as well as notorious "Radio Free Kabul" broadcasts from the territory of its country. CIA money supports the Afghan "Press Agency" based in London and affiliated in Peshawar and Rawalpindi, the "Afghan Documentation Centre" and the "United Mujahidin Press."

To conduct psychological warfare in Afghanistan proper, special teams of well-trained and equipped personnel have been formed. They have printing machines, radio stations, teletypes and duplication facilities at their disposal. Various Afghan counter-revolutionary groupings

account for 70 newspapers, magazines and weeklies coming out in Pakistan, Iran, the United States, West Germany, Italy and Britain in Dari, Pashto, English and Arabic.

Provocative tele and video films are being illegally shot in Afghanistan at the initiative of foreign advisers and shown in the West. Disguised as Afghan and Soviet soldiers, Afghan rebels pretend to massacre the civil population before the camera.

To bar the population from truthful information, the anti-government forces threaten to kill people who watch or listen in to Afghan broadcasts. They have already dealt with 45 journalists and TV announcers known to all the country.

This year the anti-Afghan propaganda machine has launched an offensive to disrupt the process of national reconciliation, but in vain. Over 83,000 refugees have returned home, over 35,000 people downed weapons and 1,335 villages taken the side of the government this year. And this process is gaining momentum.

Bangladesh

Ershad Greets Gorbachev on GOSR Anniversary

BK060245 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] President Ershad has greeted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution [GOSR]. In a message to the leader, President Ershad expressed the hope that the friendship and cooperation between the two countries will acquire greater depth and dimension in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of the two peoples. The president also wished the continued peace, progress, and prosperity of the Soviet people.

India

Jayewardene Meets Venkataraman for Talks

BK051620 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in New Delhi today from Kathmandu on a 3-day visit. He was received at the airport by the president, Mr Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Mr Jayewardene is accompanied by his wife; his brother, Mr Hector Jayewardene; and the land development minister, Mr Gamini Dissanayake. Mr Jayewardene later called on the president, Mr Venkataraman. The two leaders met separately for 20 minutes without aides. Mr Jayewardene is scheduled to have official talks with the prime minister tomorrow.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi today that the Sri Lankan minister, Mr Dissanayake, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, had discussions for some time in the evening. Indian officials, including the Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, are having talks with the TULF leaders, Mr Sivasithamparam and Mr Amirthalingam and Sampanthan.

Meanwhile, there has been considerable improvement in the situation in Jaffna. For the first time, parts of Jaffna town received electricity from the generators flown from India. Civilian vehicles have started plying, carrying people and food supplies. Normal commercial activities are likely to start in Jaffna area in the next 3 to 4 days. The peacekeeping force [PKF] is considering relaxing curfew hours to enable fishermen to go out for fishing. Simultaneously, the PKF is continuing its search operation. In the last 24 hours they recovered a large quantity of ammunition, booby traps, and explosives. Six LTTE personnel were killed, bringing the total to 773. The PKF losses include one killed and four wounded.

Pant Reports on Siachen Glacier Fighting

BK060754 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Excerpt] The 5-week-long winter session of parliament has begun. The defense minister, Mr Krishna Chandra Pant, told the Lok Sabha that there have been some cases of unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops across the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir. Replying to supplementaries, he said matters relating to such incidents are sought to be resolved in flag meetings between local commanders. The minister informed the members that no such meetings have, however, taken place during the last 1 year. Asked about Pakistani attacks on the Indian posts in the Siachen area, Mr Pant said our troops valiantly repulsed Pakistani attacks. He said our Armed Forces maintained full defense preparedness at all times to meet any threat to the security of the country. [passage omitted]

Party Committee Endorses Foreign Policy

BK050325 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] The Congress Working Committee [CWC] has endorsed the foreign policy followed by the government. At its meeting in New Delhi yesterday, it unanimously expressed the view that the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has effectively carried forward the basic thrust of the country's foreign policy. It gave its full support to the initiatives taken by the prime minister to strengthen the process of peaceful coexistence, disarmament, nonalignment, and regional and international cooperation.

Mr Gandhi, who presided over the meeting in his capacity as president of the party, apprised the working committee about his recent foreign visits.

Briefing newsmen, the party general secretary, Mr Ghulam Nabi Zad, said that the CWC condemned the sati [burning of wife at the funeral pyre of her husband] incident at Deorala. The committee felt that there is a need to mobilize all right-thinking individuals and organizations to educate the public against such shameful attempts.

On Punjab, the working committee expressed the view that there has been a definite improvement in the law and order situation following the imposition of president's rule in the state. The CWC stressed that the morale and capability of the law and order agencies should continue to be kept at a high pitch without any hindrance.

Gandhi Sends Soviets Anniversary Greetings

BK060357 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] The prime minister has sent messages of greetings to the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, and the Soviet prime minister, Mr Nikolay Ryzhkov, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution.

In his message to Mr Gorbachev, Mr Gandhi said the Soviet Union and India have together evolved a pattern of relationship that is a model to the rest of the world.

In a message to Mr Ryzhkov, Mr Gandhi expressed the hope that the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will continue to develop and expand in the years ahead.

BRIEFS

Flights Over USSR

India has acquired rights from the Soviet Union for operation of Indian Airlines to that country. This follows negotiations held recently between the two countries. This information was given by the minister of state for tourism and civil aviation, Mr Jagdish Tytler, in New Delhi yesterday. He was addressing the Parliamentary Consultative Committee meeting of his ministry. [Text] *[Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Nov 87 BK]*

Netherlands Assistance

The Netherlands Government is to provide over 131 crore rupees as assistance to India for the next year. An agreement to this effect has been signed in New Delhi between the representatives of the two countries. [Excerpt] *[Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Nov 87 BK]*

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD061229 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] We begin the news with today's Friday prayers sermons in Tehran delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the Friday imam of Tehran.

In the political Friday prayers sermons in Tehran, the president referred to Unity Week and stated: If Islam's enemies fomented division among Islamic sects in the past, it was because they feared unity of expression among Muslims. With various methods of intrigue and superficial slogans they try to undermine the slogan of Islamic unity. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran is today an axis for Muslim unity and a voice for rallying all Muslims under the banner of "There is no God but God." Arrogance and Islam's enemies more than ever before are terrified. In order to destroy that unity and to divide Muslims, they are devoting more and more of their time to this.

The Friday imam of Tehran then noted that there is no border separating Muslim brothers in Islam and warned Muslims to beware of division and discord. He said: Muslims should place themselves behind the barricade of Islam and the Koran and wage a struggle against arrogance, which is vigorously fighting against the Koran and Islamic commandments.

Continuing his sermons, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i turned to the monumental 13 Aban [4 November] march and described it as a manifestation of the Iranian Islamic revolution's glory. He said: The powerful presence of the nation on that day demonstrated that despite the passage of many years, our people have continued to preserve their revolutionary spirit and their revolutionary enthusiasm and fervor. Not only has this revolutionary enthusiasm and fervor not diminished, but it is still powerful and ready to confront its enemies.

The president continued: When our people observed that the enemy had entered the arena with all its resources, they decided to enter the arena as well with all their might. They wanted to prove that they are not afraid of the enemy's threats.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i then described the wrong and confused U.S. policies in the political, military, and economic fields. He said: The incorrect policies of the U.S. President and his associates have led to a lack of trust in the United States among governments friendly to America, even among the reactionary shaykhs in the region.

Referring to the U.S. helicopter that was shot down in the Persian Gulf by Stinger missiles, the president asserted: While Reagan and his war minister were trying to persuade and encourage various countries to impose an arms embargo against Iran, the downing of the U.S. helicopter in the Persian Gulf by Stinger missiles created a new scandal for U.S. leaders, who are still unable to provide an acceptable answer to the U.S. public and to the world. They have been unable to prove how those missiles reached the Islamic Republic of Iran.

About the U.S. forces' fear in the Persian Gulf, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i said: Following its attack on the *Iran-Ajr* vessel and the Islamic fighters' boats, the United States assumed a defensive posture, saying that the reason for attacking the vessel and those boats was to defend itself. However, following the revelations relating to the Al-Shariqah fishing boat incident in which one crew member was killed, it became clear just how frightened the U.S. forces have become of the shadow of Iranian boats.

The Supreme Defense Council chairman then referred to the week of preparation declaration and said: Preparedness must be real; that is, all sections must prepare themselves to confront the forces of the aggressor. Government bodies should propose to the Supreme Defense Council plans and frameworks within which the people should be molded. This is because, after this week, our nation should step up pressure in the war against the aggressive Iraqi regime. The United States and its agents do not want the Islamic Republic of Iran to win this war. They do not want Iran's victory to turn into a lesson for other nations that are standing up against bullying and aggression. For this reason, as the nation stressed in its 13 Aban march declaration—that all resources should be used for the war against enemies—we should, despite the wishes of global arrogance and other powers, regain the Iranian nation's rights in the arena of the imposed war by using our power, by the people's pressure, and by delivering repeated blows. Now that the world is not prepared to punish the aggressor, we should punish the aggressor ourselves.

Musavi Explains Week of Preparedness

LD051158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] In today's morning session, the government's Political Council reviewed domestic and international developments, as well as the latest developments relating to the Persian Gulf. At the end of the session, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi spoke about the week of preparedness to confront U.S. aggression, saying: The declaration of that week should not be regarded as a political or propaganda move. We are at an extremely critical phase. The mobilization of all forces to confront the Great Satan is a serious necessity.

Mr Musavi emphasized: The important thing during the week is the mobilization of combat forces. Of course, the United States is presently in a state of extreme weakness in the region. The killing of the captain of the Al-Shariqah boat by the Americans demonstrates that they are afraid of their own shadow in the Persian Gulf. They even regard fishing in the region's waters as a hostile move. From a political standpoint, past experience tells us that if the United States is given the opportunity, it would entrench itself in the region. If the Yankees feel secure, they will remain in the region as a major threat to Persian Gulf security.

The prime minister stressed: If we had no other reason for delivering a decisive blow against the decaying Iraqi regime in the present circumstances, the desperation of the global arrogance to save Saddam would have been sufficient proof for us that the regime is now in its most vulnerable state in 7 years.

Commenting on UN moves with regard to the war, the prime minister said: We do not entertain any hopes of resolving the war issue through the Security Council. However, in order to preempt any criticism, we would not withhold establishing contacts and explaining our positions within the framework of our principles. The world now fully realizes that the United States entered the arena to maintain Saddam and that, with its tension-fomenting activities in the Persian Gulf, it is endangering the region's security.

Clergy, Ramadan HQ Ready to Confront U.S.

LD051900 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Excerpts] In the wake of the recent atrocities of the arch Satan in the Persian Gulf, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's announcement of a week of preparedness for confrontation against U.S. aggression, and the demand made by the Muslim and revolutionary ummah during their great march on 4 November, Tehran's militant clergy sent a letter to the imam of the ummah today. The letter stated: The clergy and Friday imams of Tehran's mosques are ready to confront the world-devouring American aggressions along the borders of our Islamic homeland.

Ramadan Headquarters has also issued a statement, announcing: The fighters of Islam, besides being deep inside Iraqi territory, are also prepared to confront the aggressions of anyone in Persian Gulf waters. [passage omitted]

The minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has called upon all the country's youth to be part of the nationwide despatches during the week of preparedness against U.S. aggression. Rafiqdust, who was speaking during a roundtable discussion on the second channel of the Vision [television] of the Islamic Republic of Iran, referred to this week as a significant turning point in the course of our holy defense. He said: Now that the United

States has come to the region, we have more reasons to persist in our demands. He stressed: We have taken all the preliminary steps for a greater movement.

During the same roundtable discussion, the political deputy of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, referred to the Islamic Republic's reply to the (?peace) proposal of the UN secretary general on implementing Resolution 598. He stated: Despite remarks from some sources, we have not raised any new conditions. Those who feel that a new condition has been raised are the ones who never paid any attention to our positions from the beginning.

Tribesmen Declare Readiness To Fight U.S.
LD051834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] A large number of the county's armed tribesmen, in the presence of Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, this morning declared their preparedness to confront the United States. They stated that the country's tribesmen were ready to defend the independence and sovereignty of the Islamic homeland against foreign aggression with the last drop of their blood in order to respond decisively to U.S. wickedness in the Persian Gulf.

In a speech, Mr Hoseyn Musavi referred to the tribesmen's backgroud, their previous campaigns, their characteristics, and their allegiance to Islam and the Islamic Revolution. He then said: If the United States and all its surrogates use all their power to impose an arms embargo and economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran, even then they will not be able to respond to our spade-carrying [as heard] tribesmen.

The prime minister added: The history of the Islamic Revolution's campaigns bears witness to the fact that whenever there was talk of conspiracy against Islam and the Islamic Revolution, our Muslim tribesmen were in the front line defending Islam. We are sure that in this face-to-face struggle with the United States, our tribesmen will use their weapons to inflict great harm on the conspirators in the region, just as the Iranian people in their past struggles have proved their commitment to Islam.

The prime minister stressed that the nation does not want to live under the influence of foreigners. He said: During the last 9 years, the United States has not hesitated to hatch plots against the Islamic Revolution. However, thanks to God's blessing, we have been able to rely on popular forces—like you brave tribesmen—to neutralize all these plots.

Mr Musavi added: The U.S. ringleaders have utilized all of their country's resources to destroy the Islamic Revolution. Yet our revolution has become stronger every day because they do not know the secret of our revolution's success. They do not realize that the people's power and strong faith are superior to their modern and complicated weapons and their fancy fleets.

Expressing his appreciation for the readiness of the country's tribesmen to participate in the war against the arch Satan—the United States—and also stressing the need to maintain the defensive preparedness of the tribesmen, the prime minister said in conclusion: The government is ready with available resources to bring about the ever-expanding participation of the popular forces in the sacred defense by confronting the United States.

The report, meanwhile, states that the armed tribesmen of Lorestan Province, representing all the tribes of the country, with their rifles at the ready, were present at these ceremonies. The tribal representative gave a scroll to the prime minister to be presented to the imam of the ummah. The scroll conveyed the tribesmen's hatred for the conspiracies of global arrogance led by the United States. It also conveyed the tribesmen's preparedness to participate in the fight against the United States, as well as their all-embracing support for the government.

Agriculture Minister Leaves for FAO Session
NC060627 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] Mr Zali, our agriculture minister, departed for Rome this morning at the head of a delegation to attend the FAO's 24th annual session.

Pakistani Position on U.S. Presence Noted
NC052215 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Telephone interview with a Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent based in Islamabad by announcer—live]

[Text] [Announcer] Please report what the reaction to the "Death to America" demonstrations by the Muslim people of our country has been in Pakistani news media and political circles.

[Correspondent] Pakistan's press today reported on yesterday's demonstrations by our people. *Markaz* of Islamabad wrote that throughout Iran many demonstrations were held and with their shouts of "Death to America" the Iranian people gave a crushing answer to U.S. threats against Iran. Moreover, today is the anniversary of the Muslim Pakistani people's attack on the American Embassy in Islamabad. As you know, right after the occupation of the U.S. nest of spies in Tehran by the students following the imam's line, the Muslim people of Pakistan also attacked the American Embassy in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, and set fire to parts of the building. During this incident, an employee of the American Embassy was killed.

[Announcer] Reports from Pakistan state that the Pakistani people's demonstrations against the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf continue. Please comment on this for our dear viewers.

[Correspondent] Anti-U.S. demonstrations were carried out recently in various Pakistani cities, including demonstrations in Islamabad, Liaquatpur, Sargodha, and Gujranwala. Notably, the people's demonstrations in Islamabad were attended by hundreds of youths wearing shrouds who, like the fighters of Islam, also wore colored tapes on their foreheads bearing slogans of: "God is great," "Khomeyni is the leader," "Consent, O Khomeyni," and participated in extremely spectacular demonstrations. At the end of these demonstrations, they issued a 15-point resolution strongly condemning the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf and expressing the Pakistani people's solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The widely-circulated Pakistani press also has continued to publish articles and commentaries describing the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf as an element exacerbating tension. The press fully supports the Islamic Republic's stands on the Gulf question. Also, sources close to the Pakistani Foreign Ministry have stated that the semi-official *Jang* newspaper has reported that the Pakistani Government continues to resist a U.S. request on the use of the port of Karachi by U.S. warships, and has rejected the U.S. request. All these incidents manifest the influence of the Islamic Republic's words and positions among more than 90 million Pakistani people.

[Announcer] Thank you for your views. As you know, today marks the beginning of Unity Week in our Islamic country. Please tell us about the Muslim Pakistani people's approach to this event.

[Correspondent] Today, on the first day of Unity Week, millions of Pakistani Muslims participated in spectacular demonstrations and marches throughout the country to mark the auspicious birth of the prophet. In connection with this, many ceremonies and conferences discussing the prophet's nature are going on in Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi. Leading Shi'ite and Sunni clergymen are attending these conferences and Ayatollah Amoli is representing Iran at them. Also, various organizations, including the Islamic Brotherhood Organization, have formed committees of Shi'ite and Sunni clergymen in various provinces in order to hold ceremonies throughout Unity Week. I shall, God willing, report on these in due course.

[Announcer] Thank you very much. Goodbye.

[Correspondent] Goodbye.

KEYHAN on Issues Facing OPEC Meeting

PM051651 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 29 Oct 87 p 17

[Editorial by Reza Qavi-Fekr: "The Great Western Crisis and the Rescue of OPEC Prices"]

[Text] There is only a little time left before a meeting of OPEC oil ministers. In this context, all the members are trying to raise oil prices by cutting back on production and, failing that, they wish to avoid a price drop. Nearly all members agree that production must be reduced, but only a few members honor this principle. The rest go their own way without paying attention to the drastic repercussions from such a step. Quite against OPEC rules, they have either not lowered their production or else have raised it.

This uncoordinated action, at a time when the news from the Persian Gulf indicates increased tension, is not in the members' interest. OPEC members, except those few who dance to U.S. tunes and go along with this aggressor, must be ultimately successful in the end and must come through the Persian Gulf chaos unharmed.

The United States, as one of the biggest consumers of oil, is at present suffering from an OPEC surplus, and that country's oil market is really in good shape because of the high cost of refining. On the other hand, the U.S. raid against two of Iran's oil platforms, which has the appearance of a military maneuver, has harmed the U.S. economy more than it has hurt Iran. The 22.6-percent drop in the New York stock market share index is the first reaction to that raid.

It is natural for a country like the United States, with a huge trade deficit—it imports more than it exports—to face a great many problems that are far more serious than the damage caused to the Iranian platforms, which are already being repaired. The damage was estimated at $500 million. According to estimates published by Western economists, in 1986 the United States had a trade deficit of more than $156 billion. In the following months this figure rose with the final figure reaching some $168.7 billion—which itself indicates the poor state of the economy under the Reagan administration.

As we said, if we rely on these figures, there is no doubt that the economic situation and, to a lesser degree, the value of the shares on the stock market throughout the world, depend directly on the security of international waterways and ultimately the Persian Gulf, which provides more than 60 percent of the world's oil needs. If the security of this strategic waterway—which has had the attention of the entire world in recent weeks—is not guaranteed, then the movement of tankers supplying 60 percent of the world's oil becomes an important factor. This has already happened to a considerable degree, if not entirely.

The unpleasant situation in the Persian Gulf relates directly to the unwanted interference by the United States and its regional allies. This has resulted in contradictory information concerning oil production and oil prices, particularly the price of OPEC oil.

We have heard in the news that world oil consumption has risen. Moreover, we have heard from the president of OPEC that the price could reach as much as $20 per barrel. Increased demand for oil worldwide and prices higher than the designated $18 per barrel could mean a

bright future for OPEC members, if this indeed happens. This will help those countries with a single-product economy dependent on oil. It will allow them to accumulate much-needed hard currency.

However, this logical thinking—that higher prices depend on lower production—does not always work. If OPEC wants to reduce production in order to achieve the desired high prices, it will face many problems. The most important issue here is to control the production levels of members as well as non-members. The three-man production watchdog team's tour of regional countries, about which there is not much confirmed news, shows that practically all members except Iraq have agreed that an independent body should keep an eye on OPEC production. At the end of its meetings, the three-man committee decided that OPEC's problems can be traced back to the Persian Gulf because this is where most of the producers are. On the other hand, continued tension in the Persian Gulf and the high production levels of OPEC crude oil have stopped the trend toward lower prices.

The price of single-product crude oil suffered little fluctuation in the first 2 weeks of September. Coinciding with this, the reaction of the oil market to the watchdog committee decisions was favorable. Despite an unfavorable market, there was no new element to cause changes in the price levels.

However, as we said, OPEC members must overcome many obstacles to achieve lower production, even though one might presume that the price of $18 per barrel would hold steady until the next OPEC meeting in December. It is hard to predict how OPEC intends to reduce production to a desirable level.

Oil analysts believe that if prices remain at $18 per barrel, demand for OPEC oil will remain low until 1990 for several reasons. One of the reasons is the availability of other energy sources, which account for 80 percent of the total growth in energy consumption. In this regard, Europe has once again turned to coal. Last week the magazine *Petro-Strategies* announced that OPEC production has dropped below 18 million barrels per day. This downward trend in the organization's production extended to 17.7 million barrels in the month of September. Regarding the OPEC production ceiling of 16.6 million barrels designated for the second part of the year, OPEC has exceeded this ceiling by 1.1 million barrels—a violation.

Of this total, 700,000 barrels comes from Iraq's exceeding its quota, and the rest comes from the UAE and Kuwait. The figures show that four OPEC countries—Algeria, Gabon, Indonesia, and Venezuela—have kept to their production quotas and have not violated them. The seven remaining countries, including Iran, have lowered their production levels; and Ecuador and Iraq have increased their production. We have said that if OPEC members want to keep prices steady, or even raise them, they must lower their production levels.

This relative success is due to the considerable resistance of the producers, their refusal to sell cheaply, the fall in the refineries' purchases from the cash markets, and the reluctance of stockbrokers to take dangerous risks. To achieve a lasting success, OPEC decisions must be accepted by all members and must be implemented. What matters is acting according to regulations; otherwise, non-OPEC producers will gradually take over the OPEC markets and the organization's monopoly will be broken.

Mobilization Forces Conduct Maneuvers

LD051751 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] The great maneuvers of the Mobilization Forces of the Kahnuj region were held with the participation of 10 divisions of the Mobilization Forces in the region. The exercise was held to declare the preparedness of the combatant Mobilization Forces to confront the aggressions of the Great Satan.

According to a Central News Unit report, besides the special defensive-offensive tactiess, the fighters demonstrated the massive power of the Mobilization Forces—forces who have placed their lives on the line.

The ceremonies marking the start of the maneuvers began with the cries of "Death to the United States" and "The Iranian Persian Gulf is the place of Reagan's burial." During the ceremonies, Mohsen Rezai'e, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, explained the situation in the Persian Gulf and praised the Mobilization Forces as an important element in the victory of right against wrong. He said: A glorious future awaits the right-seeking fighters of Islam.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,011

LD051535 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters in two separate missions heavily bombed Iraqi troop concentration sites in Sharhani and Zobeydah theaters, southern sector Thursday morning, in retaliation for recent Iraqi air raids on eco-industrial centers in Iran.

Announcing the above, the 3011th Joint Staff Communique reported here today that Iraqi troops suffered substantial casualties and losses in the Iranian air attack which took place at 08:30 and 10:15 hours local time (05:00 and 06:45 GMT) today. The fighters returned safely to bases, it added.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and searched eight cargo ships and oil tankers Wednesday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain of their cargo and destinations. Iranian coastal artillery fire also inflicted heavy losses on Iraq's Al-Bakr oil platform in the Persian Gulf over the same period.

Meanwhile Iranian Gendarmerie forces in continuation of their battle killed or wounded a number of Iraqi soldiers and set afire 10 enemy gun emplacements and three vehicles in parts of the southern fronts yesterday.

In Halaleh, western sector, Iranian artillery fire inflicted heavy losses on four Iraqi tanks Wednesday. A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements as well as some tanks and mortar launchers were destroyed in other western theaters.

A number of Iraqi patrol units attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Qasr-e Shirin and Yebis, western and southern sectors Wednesday, suffered several casualties and were forced to flee by the artillery fire of the Muslim combatants.

In Chazabeh and north of Hur [placename as received], southern fronts, Iran's Muslim combatants checked movement of Iraqi armoured and vehicle columns Wednesday, inflicting heavy losses on enemy troops, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Jet Downed in Saudi Waters

LD061133 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced: At 2110 last night, one of the invading Iraqi planes in the Persian Gulf was fired on by regional air defense units and was downed.

According to available reports, after the enemy plane was hit—which most probably was a MIG-23—flames and black smoke were sighted. The report states that since the plane was shot down in Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] territorial waters, the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy to find the pilot of the downed plane were futile.

The same report states that on subsequent observation an unidentified helicopter was seen flying over the location where the Iraqi plane was shot down.

U.S. Tanker Attacked

LD061141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] Citing shipping sources in the region, *REUTER* reports: A U.S. oil tanker flying the Panamanian flag was targeted by speedboats in the southern part of the Persian Gulf this morning. As a result of this attack, the 103,584-ton oil tanker *Grand Wisdom*, which was carrying crude oil, caught fire. The crew members were not injured.

According to this report, the oil tanker, belonging to the American company Teekay Shipping Corporation, is now anchored 15 km off the port of Jabal 'Ali, United Arab Emirates, so that the damage inflicted can be assessed.

Pakistan

Ziaul Haq Attends Soviet Embassy Reception

BK051626 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq attended a reception in Islamabad this evening hosted by the Soviet ambassador on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

During the meeting with the Soviet ambassador, Mr Abdul Rakhman Vezirov, the president expressed his good wishes for the progress and prosperity of the people of the Soviet Union. He asked the ambassador to convey his felicitations to the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President Gromyko.

Sri Lanka

Indian Forces Continue Jaffna Reconstruction

BK060351 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] Lieutenant General Deepender Singh, GOC [General Officer Commanding] Southern Command, who is in charge of the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] in Jaffna, yesterday visited Northern and Eastern Provinces and reviewed the situation there. AIR correspondent reports from Jaffna that PKF engineers have completed the construction of a bridge at Chempiyanpattu in Jaffna area. A generator has been installed in Nallur Temple and electricity lines have been repaired in Chavadi. The Signal Corps of the PKF is taking steps to restore telecommunication services in Jaffna.

Land Mine Kills 1 Indian Soldier, Injures 4

BK061015 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1000 GMT 6 Nov 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 06 (*Lanka Puwath*)—One Indian soldier of the Indian Peace Keeping Force was killed and four others were wounded by an LTTE terrorist landmine explosion this morning at Sambaltivu in eastern Sri Lanka official sources told *Lanka Puwath*.

The official sources also told *Lanka Puwath* that LTTE terrorists had shot dead last night four Muslims at Periyapalam, Mutur about 20 kilometers south of the eastern port city of Trincomalee.

On Wednesday LTTE terrorists had shot dead another Muslim after storming into a refugee camp, also at Mutur.

An LTTE terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan security forces camp at Kattaparichan in the Trincomalee District was effectively repulsed, the official sources said.